

CUNUNDRUM.

WHY ARE SIX PINTS OF

ASPINALL'S

RED ENAMEL

WORTH MORE THAN £500,000?

BECAUSE ONE IS HALF-A-MILLION, AND
THE OTHER IS THREE QUARTS OF
VERMILION.

ONE PENNY. [Registered at the
G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

THIRD EDITION.
"THE PEOPLE" OFFICE,
Saturday Evening.

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Terrible Scenes.

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A BERLIN SCANDAL.

Extraordinary Disclosures.

BERLIN, March 28.—The disclosures caused by the arrest of Frau Oberamtmann Hensler for gross immorality are exciting all official and fashionable Berlin. Frau Hensler, who is the wife of a leading municipal official, has for some time been giving a series of receptions at her mansion in Frederick-street, which were really orgies of an Oriental character. She was assisted by her handsome daughter, and among her constant visitors were members of the highest nobility, court and city officials, officers of the army, and other persons of distinction. Pretty girls of good family were invited by Frau Hensler, and in many instances unwittingly lured to their ruin. Heavy bail was given for Frau Hensler by a high official, and now she has succeeded in escaping beyond the jurisdiction of the courts. The daughter has been arrested, and persuaded into making a confession, her evidence being taken in camera, so as to screen the names of certain persons of rank.

FATAL EXPLOSION AT CHICAGO.

Eight Men Killed.

CHICAGO, March 28.—A serious explosion occurred in the starch house of a sugar refining company yesterday evening as the workmen were preparing to leave the premises. Eight persons were killed and sixteen others injured. The noise of the explosion attracted an immense number of persons to the spot, and in spite of the storm which was raging at the time, thousands of persons gathered in front of the building, where distressing scenes were witnessed as the dead and injured were brought from the ruins. As the starch house was of flimsy construction, the pecuniary loss is slight.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.)

NEW YORK, March 28.—Later reports only increase the magnitude of the disaster. In Louisville 2,500 buildings have been wrecked, and though it is yet impossible to accurately estimate the loss of life, it is probable that more than 500 persons have perished. It is stated that dead bodies are stacked about the city in heaps, whence the distressed friends of the deceased are conveying the remains to their homes. The people are beside themselves with grief and excitement. Seven distinct fires broke out almost simultaneously, occasioned by the fall of materials upon domestic fireplaces or by the overthrow of lamps. The suburb of Parkland is entirely destroyed.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Latest despatches from Louisville place the number of those killed by the fearful tornado on Thursday night at from 70 to 100. The number of those wounded amounts to several hundreds. All day yesterday and through out last night the relief parties were at work clearing away the wreckage, extinguishing the fire, succouring the wounded, and interring the dead. Some miraculous escapes are recorded, while many heartrending scenes are witnessed among those who, having escaped themselves, have lost relatives and friends. The mayor of Louisville, in response to inquiries from all parts of the States, announces that he does not require outside relief, the resources of the town being sufficient to meet all the demands likely to be made upon it. The loss of property in Louisville is estimated at two and a half million dollars. News continues to arrive of the demolition of small townships in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. It

States of Columbia whose mental faculties have been lost.

(PARIS NEWS TELEGRAMS.)

PARIS, March 29.—At the hotel in the Rue de Seine, where M. Constantine Ventura recently committed suicide, another painful scene has just been witnessed. A young doctor, thirty-six years of age, a native of Autroquia, United States of Columbia, whose mental faculties have been lost.

The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

LONDON, SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1890.

MILFORD LANE | STRAND.—No. 442.

ONE PENNY. [Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

REDFIELD & CO., BREWERS AND BOTTLERS
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and R.H.R. THE PRINCE OF WALES
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A WOMAN WITH THREE HUSBANDS.

In the Divorce Division on Saturday, Mr. Justice Butt had before him the case of Bardsley v. Bardsley, Couzens, and Pierson. The petition was that of the husband, a School Board inspector, for a divorce by reason of his wife's adultery. The case was before the court last November on the joint petitions of Mr. Couzens and Mr. Pierson of nullity of marriage, on the ground that at the time they went through the ceremony the respondent had a husband (Mr. Bardsley) living. Decrees were then granted, and at the time Mr. Justice Butt congratulated the present petitioner on being the true husband. Mr. Bardsley now sought to have the marriage dissolved. There was no defence.—Mr. Deane appeared for the petitioner, who deposed that he was married to the respondent on the 13th August, 1873, at the parish church of Stockport. She then called herself a widow. He had reason to complain of her conduct as to her being out at night. They had a quarrel and she left him in 1871. Afterwards he received a letter from her from London, but bearing no address. Eventually he heard of the two nullity suits, and was called as a witness at the trial.—Mr. Justice Butt.

This was the first of the three marriages we know of.—Mr. Deane: That is so, my lord.—Mr. Charles Couzens said that he was called as a witness at the last trial, when he brought a suit of nullity of marriage on the ground that at the time they went through the ceremony the respondent had a husband (Mr. Bardsley) living. Decrees were then granted, and at the time Mr. Justice Butt congratulated the present petitioner on being the true husband. Mr. Bardsley now sought to have the marriage dissolved. There was no defence.—Mr. Deane: I appeared for the petitioner, who deposed that he was married to the respondent on the 13th August, 1873, at the parish church of Stockport. She then called herself a widow. He had reason to complain of her conduct as to her being out at night. They had a quarrel and she left him in 1871. Afterwards he received a letter from her from London, but bearing no address. Eventually he heard of the two nullity suits, and was called as a witness at the trial.—Mr. Justice Butt.

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SAFETY OF THE CITY OF PARIS.

The over-due liner City of Paris has been sighted twenty-five miles from Brow Head, broken down. She is in tow of another steamer.

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STRANGE TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

By STANLEY CATCHPOL

XI.—ADOPTERS.

How fiercely a hen will attack a dog should he approach too near her brood of chicks! A bitch in its turn will fight to the very death should an enemy attempt to injure her litter of pups. And so it is with all the brute creation. Maternal affection is so strong and powerful that its own life is freely given to save the offspring.

Is it so with woman? In all cases, not so; in some, yes. A child, if born in wedlock, is often pestered by both father and mother; but an infant that cannot claim a father's name has but a sorry chance to reach an age when it can battle for itself. And why? Because it usually is necessary to lodge it with strangers to hide the mother's shame. And to some of these mercenary caretakers I have turned my attention and sifted out what I believe a most diabolical system still in vogue, which our detectives might do well to turn their eyes upon instead of hanging about the streets looking after the eternal Nobody. A young lady residing at Forest Hill, whose father was fairly well off, being a merchant in the City, had the misfortune to fall in love with some one with whom she could not marry. Many were their stolen interviews, many their secret meetings after the family had retired to rest. These assignations, as one might have expected, resulted in the birth of a child. Considering her condition to a bosom friend, it was arranged that she should receive an invitation to spend a few weeks with her, dreading more the re-proaches of her brothers than those of her parents.

During her visit to her friend a baby boy came into the world. The mother went back to her parents' home, and they and the rest of the family remained in perfect ignorance of the occurrence.

The child could not remain for ever in the house in which it was born; a home must be got for it somewhere. Some good sort of a woman must be found who would adopt, bring it up, and give it a name. And a good creature of this kind was found, who took the child along with £250, and told the bosom friend—the mother was never seen—that it would have a mother's love and be brought up nicely. And how nicely the words fit into the next incident of the tiny stranger's life!

The greatest thing was absolute secrecy; the mother's name or identity must never be sought after. It was an event which must be blotted out of her life, a dream, a myth, a creation only of the imagination.

And the good kind soul with the fifty pounds must remove to another quarter of London to make doubly sure that the breath of scandal should never crop up to injure the mother's fair name. Were those fifty sovereigns devoted to the bringing up and training of the baby boy? No. The child was again subject to a person of a lower degree, who was willing to accept the burden of feeding, clothing and lodging until it should reach a proper age when it could go to work. The price this time was only £25. Men with father's hearts, women with love of mother's tend a minute's thought, pause that little space of time to dwell upon such a theme. Five pounds to adopt and take charge of a child until it is ten or twelve! Is there not blood upon each of those five sovereigns? Does not the breath of tiny soul linger round each piece of gold? Does not the finger of human justice point towards some spot where murder shrieks aloud for vengeance upon those who destroy baby life?

What became of the child of that woman whose husband was ploughing the deep to guide the good ship which was to bring home merchandise? His wedded partner was too ill to accompany him, though not too sick to bring into the world a child which could not bear her husband's name, and to conceal whose birth, and the breaking of her marriage vows, her jewels were sold. When he returned, she asserted that they had been stolen. She dared not say that the proceeds of those jewels were given away along with the offspring, which carnal appetite had bred, to a woman who lived by concealing the existence of these little waifs, and who pockets nine parts for herself, while she gives a tenth to some wretched drunkard, who stops at nothing if a few paupers' pounds are gathered whereby gin may be bought.

The eve bleats for its lost lamb, but the wealthy mother gives forth no cry of distress for that child which she dare not acknowledge.

Are these two cases isolated and stand alone? Oh no, by many thousands.

It is not the infant of the servant girl who loses virtue under a promise of marriage by her lover, and then is deserted in dire straits. It is not the wee mite whose mother is a seamstress that trudges to and fro from work, and has got into trouble through a scoundrel, who woosed her as a single man, but who, when too late, discovered he had a wife and children living. It is not these, but those who possess means, who have money wherein immorality may be hidden from the public eye.

What become of these little things which are stamped with God's likeness? Why do these "Adopters" shift from street to street, from parish to parish, and from city to city? How is it that child after child come into their possession, and all attempts to discover their existence are vain? Why do they move so often? And why so many aliases? Do not the words stand bold, painted by a brush reeking with human gore? These "Adopters" are descendants of Cain, who live and thrive in semi-luxury, while hideous cruel murder stalks through the land.

Six hundred and odd men sit in the House of Commons and will haggle night after night whether or no her Majesty's rat-catcher should receive £400 a year, but who would willingly spend as many hundreds to make their own smoking-rooms luxurious. Yet not one of these high and mighty M.P.'s can bestow a half-hour's thought how best to legislate for the saving of baby life.

Is there not among England's hereditary rulers one who can suggest something or the other which, if it cannot extinguish the wholesale traffic in adoption, might still do some'ing whereby the loss of life may be lessened?

Of the many thousand who garb themselves in spotless lawn and cry out aloud for the salvation of souls, who urge upon public opinion that it is a sin and terrible crime to open the museums on the Sabbath, scarcely one raises his voice to protect the lives of these little innocent babes. Men will say it is not known. It must be known: seek and ye shall find.

That there are many hundreds of good and honest couples who, having no children of their own, will willingly take charge of a child, give it their own name, and be as good as a father and mother can be, I know. It is not these that I wish to draw public opinion to. It is those who follow adoption as a trade, those who receive the child first from its mother and transfer it to some other person. It is no sooner out of the hands of Mrs. A. than she is off to some other district to seek another strait mate, which is again disposed of to some one else. This Mrs. Some-one-else is also soon lost in this vast labyrinthine city, and with her the baby. Though I have no evidence, yet every thing leads me to suppose that the child is lost to the world. Its whimper will no longer be heard, the dimpled cheek that had never felt the soft pressure of its mother's bosom is cold and void for worms. The soul, which had not time to distinguish right from wrong, has gone to wander forth; and when the time arrives for the parents to take flight, will the Master Judge permit them to meet and allow the little one to say, "Thou art my mother, who deserted and allowed the bloody hand of the murderer 'adopter' to steal the life which thou gavest. I did not ask for life. I wanted not to come on earth. It was thy lust that caused my birth, and here is God to judge between us."

And here, again, I do not for one moment think many mothers of these unfortunate children imagine but what they are being well treated and brought up in a humble sphere in life.

From the beginning, too much confidence is reposed in the "adopter," whose one great object is to secure a lump sum down. This the mother, or those who act for her, are only too eager to do, for

by it they rid themselves for ever of the burthen which would lie upon their conscience and be an everlasting torture. To pay so much per week of month is to acknowledge lost chastity, and that means ruin.

What chance has a young unmarried lady of getting a husband if it is known that she is a mother already, and steals occasional glimpses at the little chap at some out-of-the-way cottage? If it is adopted it is reckoned as dead, and often in very truth the mother's reckoning is correct. What husband would condone the sin of his wife, who, after being away in strange lands where duty called him, when he came back should see a child in his wife's arms that he knew could not be his? The spinster as well as the married woman are compelled to get these children off their hands at once and for ever. Nothing cruel is contemplated; they cannot be put out to nurse, for the parents never intend to claim them again, so they must be adopted in some family. Just at the moment no thoroughly respectable couple can be found. All is hurry and haste; somebody must take it, at any cost, for reputation is at stake, and the good name will be smeared over with dish-noun. So the very person is sought who of all others should be avoided—the professional "adopter," who, in eight cases out of ten is a midwife, perhaps not a certificated one. But do not imagine that a slur is cast upon those high-souled women who attend our wives in sickness; such a thing is far, very far, away from my thought.

The object in writing this sketch, as with those which have preceded, is to expose what is going on within our midst, and see if legislation cannot do something to cope with these crying evils.

Bastardy has existed since the introduction of marriage laws and may exist thousands of years hence. Women have fallen and been betrayed, and no doubt will continue to until man has reached a higher moral standard.

Yet, perhaps far better that mothers should feel the burning blush of shame than that the unwelcome little strangers should be made to suffer.

Only a few months ago, a letter fell into my possession, badly written and worse spelt. It was addressed from Limehouse; the name of the street I am sorry to say was torn off, otherwise I would have gone and seen for myself the person who signed at the bottom, Martha Robson. And this woman stated that she was willing to adopt a certain child, and bring it up with her own, for £25.

That letter evidently came from a very poor and ignorant individual, having as much as she could do to find food for her own children, yet she was willing to burden herself with some one else's.

The public must judge for themselves, how long £25 would last, and how much the "Adopter" would have for her labour, also her "Mother's love."

My lamp is becoming dim, my eyes no longer see, but in my ear there is a sound as of infant voices crying. "Mercy, mercy, why massacre the innocents?"

ATTEMPTED DOUBLE SUICIDE IN THE THAMES.

At the Wandsworth Police Court, Maria Duprey a young girl, aged 15, was charged with attempting to commit suicide.—Inspector Attwool said the prisoner and her sister, aged 17, resolved to die together, and they hand-in-hand threw themselves off the coping of Battersea Park Pier into the Thames. The sister was carried away by the stream, but the prisoner was rescued by a waterman, who, in his endeavour to save her and her sister, received an injury which necessitated his removal to the infirmary. The prisoner stated that she was determined to commit suicide in consequence of having been ill-treated by her aunt, with whom she had lived, her mother and father not living together. Witness had her wrapped in blankets and removed to the infirmary. The body of the sister had not been recovered.—William Dudley, the pier master, said on the afternoon of the 7th inst., his attention was called to two women in the water. He threw a life-buoy at them, but they would not or could not catch hold of it.—The prisoner, who had been in the infirmary since the 7th inst., said her aunt was always telling her to go, and she went. Her sister told her to commit suicide, and they really intended to drown themselves—Samuel Duprey, residing at Barking-road, Canning Town, the uncle, attended, and said the prisoner had lived with him for sixteen months, and her sister for five weeks. They had been treated as kindly as his own children. He believed the prisoner, who was a good girl, had been led away by her sister. The mother and father had been separated for years, and the children had been thrown on the world. The prisoner admitted that she was well treated before her sister came.—Mr. Denman inquired of the uncle if it was a fact that they were told to leave the house, and he replied that he did not know. The Prisoner (addressing her uncle): The night before there was a row, and aunt punched me in the back and slapped my face.—The aunt came forward, and expressed her willingness to take the prisoner back and treat her kindly. She also promised not to allude to this matter.—The prisoner was discharged.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF A COMPOSER.

Where is M. Saint-Saëns, the composer? A Paris correspondent observes that his prolonged absence and utter silence are causing considerable anxiety. His aunt was the owner of the Island of Caprera, which the Italian Government bought of him for £160,000 to give to Garibaldi. When he died the musician came into this fortune. He was very saving, living in a small fourth-floor flat, and certainly not spending £250 a year. He thought himself cheated if in a hotel he was ever charged more than £s. a day. He was separated from his wife. The only woman he really got on well with was his mother and aunt, but he was affectionate and open, with a small number of masculine friends. He showed himself a brilliant caricaturist and writer. He took a sad view of life. Last year, his mother's death, the constant fatigue and worry of his musical engagements at the Exhibition and elsewhere, and the annoyance to which the rehearsals of "Ascanio" subjected him, quite upset his nervous system. The doctor he consulted said, "Go and travel." He thought of going to Tenerife, and last November reached Cadiz, where he was lost sight of. Nobody has heard from him since the middle of that month. His wife is in Paris to try to unravel the mystery.

AFTER THE BOAT RACE.

At the Marlborough-street Police Court on Thursday, Louis French, 21, described as a medical student, of Cornwall road, Kensington, and Robert Bell, veterinary student, Lime-grove, Shepherd's Bush, were charged with being disorderly in Piccadilly shortly after twelve that morning.—The prisoners, it was said, were the ringleaders of a disorderly gang of ruffianly youths, who amused themselves by pushing people off the footpath, shouting, "Oxford and Cambridge," and marching about, linked arm in arm, to the annoyance and alarm of the respectable portion of the community. French was said to have used very filthy language to the police when ordered to leave the thoroughfare, and altogether his conduct was very objectionable.—Inspector Burke and several constables spoke to the misbehaviour of the gang.—French denied being drunk, and Mr. Newton told him he was not charged with that. He must have been a very stupid young fellow, for probably his conduct and bad language would tend towards ruining his prospects for life. He was fined 20s., or 14 days, and Bell was ordered to enter into his own recognisance of £5 to keep the peace.

To DARKEN GREY HAIR.—Lockyer's Sulphur Hair Restorer is the quickest, best, safest, and cheapest. Large Bottles, 1s. od. Everywhere.—(Adv.)

WELDON'S LADIES' JOURNAL (April) contains a Paper Pattern of the New Walking Skirt, Coloured Plate of Spring Toilette. Fine Illustrations of Spring Costumes, &c., material required, Fancy Work, How to Fold Dinner Napkins, Lessons in Millinery and Home Dressmaking, &c. Price 1s.; post-free 1s. 6d. WELDON AND CO., Southampton-street, Strand, London.—(Adv.)

THE FRACAS IN MAYFAIR.
Charles Mitchell at the Police Court.

At the Marlborough-street Police Court on Wednesday, Charles Mitchell, 23, pugilist and music hall manager, was charged, on remand, with assaulting William Chesterfield Goode, another pugilist, by striking him on the head with a brass poker early in the morning of the 5th inst., at the house of Mr. Baird ("Mr. Abington"), John-street, Mayfair. A further charge of assaulting Mr. Cockburn at the same time and place was withdrawn at the last hearing of the case.—The assaults were alleged to have been committed by the prisoner during a social gathering of fighting men and others at the house of Mr. Baird. The night's amusements were said to have been of a mixed and indefinite character, and they ended in a disgraceful scene, in which the police were powerless to interfere. It was said that when Mr. Baird was escorted to bed by Mitchell, Cockburn was withdrawn at the last hearing of the case.—The assaults were alleged to have been committed by the prisoner during a social gathering of fighting men and others at the house of Mr. Baird. The night's amusements were said to have been of a mixed and indefinite character, and they ended in a disgraceful scene, in which the police were powerless to interfere. It was said that when Mr. Baird was escorted to bed by Mitchell, Cockburn was withdrawn at the last hearing of the case.—The assaults were alleged to have been committed by the prisoner during a social gathering of fighting men and others at the house of Mr. Baird. The night's amusements were said to have been of a mixed and indefinite character, and they ended in a disgraceful scene, in which the police were powerless to interfere. 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her, and she soon walked alone out of sight. Here we are at a station! How far to Bedsworth, guard?"

CHAPTER XLVI.

"Next station, sir." "Thank the Lord! It's twenty to eight. We are rather behind our time. You always are if you are in a particular hurry."

It was nearly eight o'clock by the time they reached their destination. The station-master directed them to the Flying Bull, where they secured the very vehicle in which Kate and her guardian had been originally driven up. By the time that the horse was put in it was close on to the half hour.

"Drive as hard as you can go to the Priory, me man," said the major.

The sulky ostler made no remark, but a look of surprise passed over his phlegmatic countenance. For years back so little had been heard of the old monasteries that its very existence had been almost forgotten in Medoworth. Now, whole troops of Londoners were coming down in succession, demanding to be driven there. He pondered over the strange fact as he drove through the darkness, but the only conclusion to which his bucolic mind could come was that it was high time to raise the gate to that particular point.

It was a miserable night, stormy and wet and bitterly cold. None of the five men had a thought to spare for the weather, however. The two foreigners had been so infected by the suppressed excitement of their companions, or had so identified themselves with their comrades' cause, that they were as eager as the others.

"Are we near?" the major asked.

"The gate is just at the end of the lane, sir."

"Don't pull up at the gate, but take us a little past it."

"There ain't no way in except the gate," the driver remarked.

"Do what you're ordered," said the major sternly.

Once again the ostler's face betrayed unbound astonishment. He slewed half-way round in his seat and took as good a look as was possible in the uncertain light at the faces of his passengers. It had occurred to him that it was more than likely that he would have to swear to them at some future date in a police court. "I'd know that thick 'un wi' the red face," he muttered to himself, "and him wi' the yellor beard and the stick."

They passed the stone pillars with the weather-beaten heraldic devices, and drove along by the high park wall. When they had gone a hundred yards or so the major ordered the driver to pull up, and they all got down. The increased heat was paid without remonstrance, and the ostler rattled away homewards, with the intention of putting up at the county police station and lodging information as to the suspicious visitors whom he had brought down.

"It is loikly that they have a watch at the gate," said the major. "We must keep away from there. This wall is a great hight. We'd best keep on until we find the aisiest place to scale it."

"I could get over it here," Tom said eagerly.

"Wait a bit. A few minutes can make no difference one way or the other. Ould Sir Colb used to say that there were more battles lost by over hate than by slowness. What's the high wall running along on the right here?"

"Dat's a railway bankment," said Von Baumer. "See the posts and the little red lights over yonder."

"So it is. The wall seems to me to be lower here. What's this dark thing? Hullo, here's a door leading into the grounds."

"It is locked though."

"Give me a hoist here," Tom said imploringly. "Don't throw a minute away. You can't tell what may be going on inside. At this very moment for all we know they may be plotting her murder."

"He has right," said Von Baumer. "We shall await her until we hear from you. Help him, my friends—show him up!"

"Tom caught the coping of the wall, although the broken glass upon the top cut deeply into his hands. With a great heave he swung himself up, and stood as soon astride upon the top.

"Here's the whistle," said the major, standing on tiptoe to reach a down-stretched hand. "If you want us give a good blow at it. We'll be with you in a brace of shakes. If we can't get over the wall we'll have the door down. Devil a fear but we'll be there!"

Tom was in the act of letting himself drop into the wood, when suddenly the watchers below saw him crouch down upon the wall, and lie motionless as though listening intently.

"Hush!" he whispered, leaning over. "Some one is coming through the wood."

The wind had died away and the storm subsided. Even from the lane they could hear the sound of feet, and of muffled voices inside the grounds. They all crouched down in the shadow of the wall. Tom lay flat upon the glass-studded coping, and no one looking from below could distinguish him from the wall itself.

The voices and the footsteps sounded louder and louder, until they were just at the other side of the boundary. They seemed to come from several people walking slowly and heavily. There was the shrill rasping of a key and the wooden door swung back on its rusty hinges, while three dark figures passed out who appeared to bear some burden between them. The party in the shadow crouched closer still, and peered through the darkness with eager anxious eyes. They could discern little save the vague outlines of the moving men, and yet as they gazed at them an unaccountable and overpowering horror crept into the hearts of every one of them. They breathed an atmosphere of death.

The newcomers tramped across the road, and pushing through the thin hedge, ascended the railway embankment upon the other side. It was evident that their burden was a heavy one, for they stopped more than once while ascending the steep grassy slope, and once, when near the top, one of the party slipped, and there was a sound as though he had fallen upon his knees, together with a stifled oath. They reached the top, however, and their figures, which had disappeared from view, came into sight again standing out dimly against the murky sky. They bent down over the railway line, and placed the indistinguishable mass which they bore carefully upon it.

"We must have the light," said a voice.

"No, no; there's no need," another expostulated.

"We can't work in the dark," said a third, loudly and harshly. "Where's your lantern, guy nor? I've got a lucifer."

"We must manage that the train passes over right," the first voice remarked. "Here, Burt, you light it!"

There was the sharp sound of the striking of a match, and a feeble glimmer appeared in the darkness. It flickered and waned, as though the wind would extinguish it, but next instant the wick of the lantern had caught, and threw a strong yellow glare upon the scene. The light fell upon the major and his comrades, who had sprung into the road, lit up the group on the railway line. Yet it was not upon the rescuing party that the murderers fixed their terror-stricken eyes, and the major and his friends had lost all thought of the miscreants above them—for there, standing in the centre of the roadway, there with the light flickering over her pale sweet face, like a spirit from the tomb, stood none other than the much-enduring, cruelly-treated girl for whom Burt's murderous blow had been intended.

For a few moments she stood there without either party moving a foot or uttering a sound. Then there came from the railway line a cry so wild that it will ring for ever in the ears of those who heard it. Burt dropped upon his knees and put his hand over his eyes to keep out the sight. John Girdlestone caught his son by the wrist and dashed away into the darkness, flying wildly, madly, with white faces and staring eyes as men who have looked upon that which is not of this world.

In the meantime, Tom had sprung down from his perch, and had clasped Kate in his arms, and there she lay, sobbing and laughing, with many pretty feminine ejaculations and exclamations and

questions, saved at last from the net of death which had been closing upon her so long.

A MIDNIGHT CRUISE.

If ever two men were completely cowed and broken down those two were the African merchant and his son. Wet, torn, and soiled, they still struggled on in their aimless flight, crashing through bushes and clambering over obstacles, with the darkness in their frenzied minds of leaving miles between them and that fair accusing face. Exhausted and panting they still battled through the darkness and the storm, until they saw the gleam of the surge and heard the crash of the great waves upon the beach. Then they stopped amid the sand and the shingle. The moon was shining down now in all its calm splendour, illuminating the great tossing ocean and the long dark sweep of the Hampshire coast. By its light the two men looked at one another, such a look as two lost souls might have exchanged when they heard the gates of hell first clang behind them.

Who could have recognised them now as the respected trader of Fenchurch-street and his fastidious son. Their clothes were tattered, their faces splashed with mud and scarred by brambles and thorns, the elder man had lost his hat, and his silvery hair blew out in a confused tangle behind him. Even more noticeable, however, than the change in their attire was the alteration in their expression. Both had the same startled, furtive look of apprehension, like beasts of prey who hear the baying of the hounds in the distance. Their quivering hands and gasping breath betrayed their exhaustion, yet they glanced around them nervously, as though the least sound would send them off once more upon their wild career.

"You devil!" Ezra cried at last in a harsh choking voice, taking a step towards his father with a gesture as though he would have struck him. "You have brought us to this with your canting and scheming and plotting. What are we to do now—oh? Answer me that!" He caught the old man by the coat and shook him violently.

Girdlestone's face was all drawn, as though he were threatened with a fit, and his eyes were glassy and vacant. The moonlight glittered in them and played over his contorted features. "Did you see her?" he whispered with trembling lips.

"Yes, I saw her," the other answered busily. "And I saw that infernal fellow from London, and the major, and God knows how many more behind her. A nice hornet's nest to bring about one's ears!"

They passed the stone pillars with the weather-beaten heraldic devices, and drove along by the great brown sail. The little vessel lay over under the pressure of the wind until her lee bulwark was flush with the water, and the deck lay at such an angle that it was only by holding on to the weather rigging that the two gentlemen could retain their footing. The wild waves swirled and foamed round her bows, and beat at her quarter and beneath her counter, but the little boat rose gallantly to them, and shot away through the storm, running due eastward.

"Five-and-thirty wouldn't pay me for the loss and trouble," he said; "forbye the damage to the boat."

"Say forty, then," said Ezra. "It's rather much to pay for a freak of this sort, but we won't haggle over a pound or two."

The old seaman scratched his head as though uncertain whether to take this blessing which the gods had sent or to hold out for more.

"It was the girl herself," said Ezra. He had been panicstricken at the moment, but had had time during their flight to realise the situation.

"We have made a pretty both of the whole thing."

"The girl herself!" cried Girdlestone in bewilderment. "For heaven's sake, don't mock me! Who was it that we carried through the wood and laid upon the rails?"

"Who was it? Why that jealous jade, Rebecca Tayforth, of course, who must have read my note and come out in the other's cloak and hat to hear what I had to say to her. The cursed fool!"

"The wrong woman!" Girdlestone muttered with the same vacant look upon his face. All for nothing then—for nothing!"

"Don't stand mumbly to yourself there," cried Ezra, catching his father's arm and half dragging him along the beach. "Don't you understand that there's a hue and cry out after you, and that we'll be hung if we are taken. Wake up and exert yourself. The gallows would be a nice end to all your preaching and praying, wouldn't it?"

They hurried along together down the beach, ploughing their way through the loose shingle and tripping over the great mats of seaweed which had been cast up in the recent gale. The wind was still so great that they had to lower what heads still to put their shoulders against it, while the salt spray caused their eyes to smart and tingled on their lips.

"How are you taking me, my son?" asked the old man once.

"To the only chance we have of safety. Come on, and ask no questions."

Through the murkiness of the night they saw a single light flickering dimly ahead of them. This was evidently the goal at which Ezra was aiming. As they toiled on it grew larger and brighter, until it resolved itself into the glare of a lamp shining through a small diamond-pane window. Girdlestone recognised the place now. It was the hut of a fisherman named Sampson, who lived a mile or more from Claxton. He remembered having his attention attracted to the place by the curious nature of the building, which was constructed out of the remnants of a Norwegian barque stranded some years before. The thatch which covered it and the windows and door cut in the sides gave it a curiously hybrid appearance, and made it an object of interest to sightseers in those parts. Sampson was the owner of a fair-sized fishing boat, which he worked with his eldest son, and which was said to yield him a decent livelihood.

"What are you going to do?" asked Girdlestone, as his son made his way to the door.

"Don't look like a ghost," Ezra answered in an angry whisper. "We're all safe if we are only cool."

"I am better now. You can trust me."

"Keep a smiling face, then," said Ezra, and knocked loudly at the door of the hut. The occupants had not heard their approach owing to the storm, but the instant that the young merchant struck the door there was a buzz of conversation and the sharp barking of a dog.

Then came a dull thud and the barking ceased, from which Ezra concluded that some one had hurled a boot at the animal.

"We ha'n't no bait," cried a gruff voice.

"Can I see Mr. Sampson?" asked Ezra.

"I tell 'ee we ha'n't no bait," roared the voice in a more irritable tone.

"We don't want bait. We want a word of talk," said Ezra. As he spoke the door flew open and a burly middle-aged man, in a red shirt, appeared with a face which was almost the same colour as his garment. "We ha'n't got no—" he said meekly. "It's a blessing that you had the freight to secure it. Are you thinking of making for France now?"

"France! Pshaw, man, the telegraph would have set every gendarmerie on the coast on the look out! No, no, that would be a poor hope of safety look!"

"Where then?"

"Where is the fisherman?" asked Ezra, suspiciously, peering out from the door into the darkness. "No one must know our destination. We'll pick up Miggs's ship, the Black Eagle, in the Downs. She was to have gone down the Thames to-day, and to lie at Gravesend, and then to work round to the Downs, where she will be to-morrow. It will be a Sunday, so no news can get about. If we get away with him they will lose all trace of us. We'll get him to land us upon the Spanish coast. I think it will fairly puzzle the police. No doubt they are watching every station on the line by this time. I wonder what has become of Burt?"

"I trust that they will hang him," John Girdlestone cried, with a gleam of his old energy. "If he had taken the ordinary precaution of making sure who the girl was, this would never have occurred."

"Don't throw the blame on him," said Ezra bitterly. "Who was it who kept us all up to it whenever we wished to back out? If it had not been for you who would have thought of it?"

"I acted for the best," cried the old man, throwing his hands up with a piteous gesture.

"You should be the last to upbraid me. It was the dream of leaving you rich and honoured which drove me on. I was prepared to do anything for that end."

"You have always excellent intentions," his son said callously. "They have a queer way of showing themselves, however. Look out, here's Sampson!"

As he spoke they heard the crunching of the fisherman's heavy boots on the shingle, and he looked in, with his ruddy face all shining with the salt water.

The two gentlemen walked down to the edge of the sea. There was a little dinger there, and the boat was anchored a couple of hundred yards off.

They could just make out the loom of her through the darkness, and see her shadowy spars dipping in and falling with the wash of the waves.

To right and left spread the long white line of thundering foam, as though the ocean were some great beast of prey which was gnashing its glistening teeth at them. The gale had partially died away, but there still came fitful gusts from the south-west land the thick clouds overhead were sweeping in a majestic procession across the sky, and falling like a dark cataract over the horizon, showing that up there at least there was no lull in the tempest. It was bitterly cold, and both men buttoned up their coats and slapped their hands against each other to preserve their warmth.

"Keep doon, Sammy!" the fisherman said hoarsely to a great collie dog who was licking at Girdlestone's hands. "What be he a suckin' at? Why, sure, sir, there be blood on your hands."

"My father scratched himself," said Ezra promptly. "His hat has blown away, too, and we lost our way in the dark, so we're rather in a mess."

"We must have the light," said a voice.

"No, no; there's no need," another expostulated.

"We can't work in the dark," said a third, loudly and harshly. "Where's your lantern, guy nor? I've got a lucifer."

"We must manage that the train passes over right," the first voice remarked. "Here, Burt, you light it!"

There was the sharp sound of the striking of a match, and a feeble glimmer appeared in the darkness. It flickered and waned, as though the wind would extinguish it, but next instant the wick of the lantern had caught, and threw a strong yellow glare upon the scene. The light fell upon the major and his comrades, who had sprung into the road, lit up the group on the railway line. Yet it was not upon the rescuing party that the murderers fixed their terror-stricken eyes, and the major and his friends had lost all thought of the miscreants above them—for there, standing in the centre of the roadway, there with the light flickering over her pale sweet face, like a spirit from the tomb, stood none other than the much-enduring, cruelly-treated girl for whom Burt's murderous blow had been intended.

For a few moments she stood there without either party moving a foot or uttering a sound.

Then there came from the railway line a cry so wild that it will ring for ever in the ears of those who heard it. Burt dropped upon his knees and put his hand over his eyes to keep out the sight.

John Girdlestone caught his son by the wrist and dashed away into the darkness, flying wildly, madly, with white faces and staring eyes as men who have looked upon that which is not of this world.

In the meantime, Tom had sprung down from his perch, and had clasped Kate in his arms, and there she lay, sobbing and laughing, with many pretty feminine ejaculations and exclamations and

better than that," said Ezra. "You remember my meeting you two or three Saturdays ago, and speaking to you about your house and your boat and one thing or another?"

The fisherman nodded.

"You said something then about your boat being a good sea-going craft, and that it was as roomy as many a yacht. I think I told you that I right give it a try some day."

The fisherman nodded again. His wondering eyes were still surveying his visitors, dwelling on every rent in their clothes or stain on their persons.

"My father and I want to get down the coast as far as the Downs. Now we thought that we might just as well give your boat a turn and have your son and yourself to work it. I suppose she is fit to go that distance?"

"Fit! why she be fit to go to Meriky! The Downs

OUR OMNIBUS.
THE M.P.

The Conservative meeting at the Carlton last week had had more than an ephemeral success. So many sanguine prognostications of a coming disruption had been indulged in by the Gladstonians that the excessive cordiality and unanimity which prevailed quite astonished them, and they have been seeking ever since to minimise the result and to construct new prophecies for the future. The summary of the discussion which appeared in the newspaper was necessarily brief, and did not report some of the amusing incidents which enlivened the meeting. Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald's description of the Parnellite party as seeking to kill the Irish landlord with the object of holding an expensive wake at the cost of the corpse was hugely enjoyed, and the roars of laughter which accompanied Mr. Gray's serious assertion that the Gladstonians were bound to give support to the Tithe Bill because Sir William Harcourt had promised it, made the roof of the old smoking-room ring again. Equally appreciated, too, were Lord Salisbury's references to the beneficial effect of St. Patrick's Day in curing obstruction, and his description of the Radical party of the future. "You cannot negotiate at the top of your voice," was his answer to an inquiry as to the progress of the Behring Sea negotiations, and the phrase is one which for aptness and humour is quite Dioracian in its style.

Mr. Balfour's Land Bill appears to have taken Mr. Gladstone's breath away, and to have thrown the regular Opposition into the completest state of confusion. It is a bill which combines almost every quality of statesmanship. In the first place it carries out to its logical conclusion the principle adopted by all parties, that peace in Ireland will only be attained by putting an end to the present dual system of ownership. It does this by a plan which provides the necessary funds without trenching upon British capital, and only in a remote and inappreciable degree upon the security of British credit. It opens out a prospect of dealing once and for all with the open sore of Ireland—the so-called congested districts, where one year's bad harvest means pauperism, and two years' failure spells famine. And it does this without the pressure of compulsion on the landlord or the tenant, but by offering each tangible and certain advantages. For Mr. Gladstone to attack a bill like this would be not only to belie every promise he has successively made when at the head of three ministries, but it would set against him the whole of the solid and respectable farming class in Ireland. And that he recognises it was evident from his speech on Monday.

The Unionist victory at Ayr comes at an opportune time to cheer the spirits of the party, and to assure them that dear old Scotland has not gone so hopelessly wrong as they were beginning to believe. Mr. Somervell, the new member, will not unlikely make his mark in the House. He has a free dashing style which made him very popular with the seafaring population in the burghs, and he has a good practical knowledge of the social problems of our great cities, acquired by close contact with the working classes in London and Glasgow, which will, if he chooses, make him an authority on these subjects. An equally valuable recruit to the Unionist ranks is Dr. Kenton, who has just been returned for county Down, no Nationalist daring to oppose him. Dr. Kenton comes into Parliament as a representative of one of the best elements in Irish society, the moderate and sober Protestantism of the North, which while avoiding the excesses of Orangemanism, is resolutely and unchangeably hostile to any tampering with the Union.

Interest will now be concentrated on the vacancies at Windsor and Carnarvon. In both cases the Conservatives are fighting at some disadvantage, owing to the unexpected occurrence of the elections, which has found them, in one case, Carnarvon, necessarily unprepared, and in the other hampered by the unaccountable conduct of the late member. At Windsor the Conservatives are championed by a well-known rich and munificent resident, Mr. Harry, who having acquired a vast fortune in trade, has devoted no small portion of it to works of charity, while his opponent, Mr. Grenfell, is known only as a hardriding sportsman and an athlete of great renown, and has entered on the contest much against his will, and only in deference to Mr. Gladstone's personal entreaty. The Carnarvon constituency, composed as it is of six scattered boroughs with few common interests, is more fickle than Windsor, and it would not be surprising if a strong Disestablishment candidate was to recapture it; if not now, at the next election. But the Gladstonians have put forward a candidate of very extreme views on many points, and he has already shaken the allegiance of no small number of Liberals, who are disposed to prefer the moderate programme put forward by Mr. Ellis Nannay, who has been, after much difficulty in selection, chosen to oppose him. Mr. Nannay comes of a good old Welsh stock, and has not like many of the squires in his country, neglected to learn the language of the Marts, but speaks it with facility and force.

OLD IZAAK.

A correspondent, "Allround," wishes to know of good fishing to be had on the Midland or Great Northern Railways. Not more than thirty miles from London, subscription not to exceed one guinea per annum, where Sunday fishing is allowed. If any of my numerous readers know of suitable water, I shall be obliged by their communicating with me, giving full particulars.

While two members of the Highbury Angling Society (Messrs. Wymer and Kutherford) were angling with a local fisherman in the Ouse, at Oxford, near Huntingdon, on the 14th inst., the puntman shot a fine male otter, weighing 26lb., and measuring 4ft. 2in. extreme length. The animal was presented by the above gentlemen to the society, and it is now in the hands of the taxidermist for preservation.

Mr. Holledge, of Twickenham, who during the past season has shown considerable interest in promoting sport among anglers, at this well-known fishing resort, offered five prizes for the closing days of the coarse fishing. Two prizes for the best takes on the Sunday, and three prizes for the best single day's fishing in the week. The first prize (on the Sunday), a silver watch, was taken by Mr. Fountain, fishing with Port Hamerton, with 7lb. 7oz.; and the second, a rough rod and winch, by Mr. Mitchell, fishing with John Coxon. The other resulted as follows:—Mr. Carter, fishing with C. Brown, took the first prize, a silver watch, with 13lb. 5oz.; Mr. Lines, with John Coxon, second, with 8lb.; and Mr. Manning, fishing with Port Hamerton, was third, with 6lb. 2oz.

The Richmond Pictorialists have set a good example to all the clubs by voting a subscription of £22s. towards the Thames Angling Defence Fund. In a capital letter addressed by Mr. G. H. Wright, the hon. sec. of the R. P.'s, to Mr. Marston of the *Fishing Gazette*, occur the following weighty remarks:—"The members feel that the time has now arrived when the encroachment being made by riparian owners should be strongly opposed; and although appeals for funds have met with little encouragement in the past, it is sincerely hoped that anglers, and angling clubs particularly, will recognise the serious aspect this important question has assumed, and in their own interests subscribe as liberally as they can afford." It has been estimated that something like sixty thousand anglers reside in or near London; now if each of these would only send one shilling to J. D. M. Pearce, Esq., Mayor of Maidenhead (who is kindly acting as treasurer to the T. A. D. F.), a more than sufficient sum would be placed at the disposal of those gentlemen who form the Defence Committee.

Reports to hand from Hampton, Sunbury,

Shepperton and Chertsey record numbers of good trout seen feeding; my informant at the latter place says:—"I know of seven heavy fish between the Wair and the Bridge." Everything seems to indicate that the prospects of the forthcoming season are above the average, and should the water be in good condition by the opening day, I anticipate a more than usual successful start will be made. Many good trout are to be caught in the Thames, from Teddington Lock upwards, by spinning a bleak from the tow-path bank; throw the bait as far over the stream as possible, letting it come round in a semi-circle about a foot below the surface. Never cast twice in the same place, but a few yards lower every throw.

The usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society was held at the London office of that body, 52, Charing Cross, on last Tuesday. There were present Mr. A. Nuttall, J. P., chairman, Mr. M. H. Blamey, deputy-chairman, Messrs. W. H. Eyre, G. Evans, G. Newsome, T. H. Sachs, J. Ewett, G. Wright, M. Davenport, C. C., and Mr. W. H. Brougham, the secretary. After the minutes of the last meeting were read, the secretary submitted the financial statement, showing a balance of £100 15s. 4d. in the hands of the bankers, which was considered satisfactory. Letters were read from G. F. Cambridge, Esq., and Edward Rose, respecting the engagement of jack and other fish recently turned into the Thames at Halliford; a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Cambridge for his kindly endeavour to benefit the London anglers. The committee decided to make further experiments in raising young perch from a quantity of eggs, which will be procured, as on the previous occasion, from Scotland; important alterations will be effected in the rearing stream at Sunbury before the attempt is made. It was arranged that the 1,000 yearling trout (500 being a present and 500 purchased) be placed in suitable waters between Penton Hook and Teddington Weir on Friday, March 28th. A subscription of £5s. was voted to the Thames Angling Defence Fund now being raised at Maidenhead.

The committee of the Central Association of London Angling Clubs have unanimously voted as a first donation the sum of five guineas towards the Thames Angling Defence Fund, in response to the appeal made by J. G. D. Pearce, Esq., Mayor of Maidenhead, for funds to defend the case Mrs. Annie Smith v. Andrews and another. Mr. W. Wade, in his letter to me, communicating the above good news, says: "It is certainly very desirable that strenuous efforts should be at once made to checkmate this attempt to prevent angling in our favourite river."

PIPER PAN.

The representative in England of Trinity College, Toronto, complains of my statement that the degree of Mus. Doc. has been purchased by an English musician, and also of my statement that Lord Knutsford, our colonial minister, has promised to stop a to a "system of fraud." I am quite willing to exonerate the authorities from selling unmerited degrees, and from complicity in a system of fraud, but I shall be prepared to prove that some persons have obtained degrees to which they were not entitled. The fees they have paid are—so far as they are concerned—purchase money.

Amongst the English musicians who laid this matter before Lord Knutsford were Dr. Stainer, Dr. C. Villiers Stanford, Sir Arthur Sullivan, Dr. A. C. Mackenzie, Dr. Wynde, and Dr. J. F. Bridge, and they pointed out that "several persons who have repeatedly failed to pass the rudimentary tests required by our English examining institutions, have obtained the Toronto degree."

Last week I announced the first appearance in England of the young Belgian pianist, Arthur de Greef. At Mr. Chappell's Popular Concert on Monday last: "He came, he played, he conquered." Without giving details of his performances, let me say at once that he proved himself a consummate master of his art; not only a brilliant executant, but an intellectual exponent of musical masterpieces. So successful début has not occurred in the metropolis for many a day.

The thirty-second season of the Monday Popular Concerts will close on Monday next, when an interesting selection of high class chamber music will be performed by the most popular of the artists who have delighted the musical public for many months past. Verbum sap.

Miss Marian Burton, the popular contralto of the Carl Rosa Opera Company until recently, has won great favour at the Antipodes. The Melbourne journals speak very highly of her voice and singing, and I hear that on Saturday, the 22nd instant, she was to appear as Paul Jones, in Planquette's opera of that name.

I have received from Miss Agnes Huntington a complaint of the Carl Rosa Company, who have forbidden her to sing in public, and also at private concerts, until after December next. I am sorry for her, but the C. R. Company were justified in averting the chance of her injuring their business. As complaining of their harshness would be futile, I recommend her and her friends to refrain from further appeals to public opinion. Next year Miss Huntington will be free to win a sweet revenge by delighting the musical public.

Those correspondents whose letters I have not been able to refer to this week, will find them noticed as soon as possible.

critic of the Times always pays for a kiss." Madame Angri, a few years before her decease, told me this was exactly what took place.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

That horrid pest, the locust, is now devastating great districts in India, including the chief part of the North-West Provinces. It is a peculiarity of the Indian locust that he will "die low" for several years, and not put in an appearance anywhere. Then, just when it is beginning to be assumed that he has vanished for good and all, his multitudinous armies take the field, and the heart of the peasant dies within him. Every thing green disappears as if by magic as the ravenous insects fly onwards, and the resulting misery is scarcely less than that from a failure of crops.

It is a novelty to hear of a large English city having its water supply threatened by frogs. This is the case at Northampton just now. Somehow or other, an immense quantity of spawn got into the mains, but nobody thinks much of that, except a few who presume to think that the water could not have been properly filtered. Frog's spawn in one's tea may be a good substitute for milk, but for my own part I should prefer the original sky-blue. The matter having been neglected in this stage, multitudes of frogs soon appeared in the mains, and getting into the service pipes blocked the supply of many houses. It is said that the whole of the mains will have to be emptied and cleaned to get rid of the nuisance. But the expense will not be wasted if it directs attention to the immense importance of proper filtration before any water is admitted into the mains.

Among the many novel spectacles presented to Prince Albert Victor during his Indian tour, the Maharajah of Oodeypore got up a boar and tiger fight in his honour. It seems to have been a lively encounter, Master Piggy showing an abundance of pluck as he always does, and coming up smiling round after round. The combat finally resulted in a draw, both being severely punished, the boar by the tiger's claws, and the latter by his porcine foe's sharp tusks. In the jungle the tiger rarely mingles with boars, although fond enough of pork when it presents itself in the shape of a sow.

"Perfumer" asks me how ambergris is formed. It is a morbid secretion from the intestines of the sperm whale. When ejected by this animal it floats on the surface of the ocean, sometimes in very large masses. My correspondent says that he recently found a bird's claw embedded in a piece. I presume that the whale had picked up the bird dead in the sea, and was unable to digest the hard claw. The horny beaks of cuttlefish are often found in a similar way in ambergris, and the sperm whale is known to feed largely on cuttlefish.

The whales which have the structure known as whalebone adhering to the lower jaws, which prevents them from swallowing any but the most minute substances, are known as the Right whales. The Greenland whale is the best known of these. It often grows to a length of sixty feet. Despite its great bulk, it entirely feeds on some of the very smallest members of marine life, such as medusæ, pteropods, &c. Of the whales in which the whalebone is but slightly developed, and therefore, commercially worthless, we have the common Fin Whale, which grows to even a larger size than the preceding one. It feeds freely on fish, especially cod, of which it is said that as many as eight hundred were once found in one of these whale's stomachs. It is of but little use and is generally, therefore, freed from the persecution of the hunters. The Sperm whale has no vestiges of whalebone. It is a native of the Southern oceans, and is in great request for the material known as spermaceti, which is found largely in cavities in its skull, though also diffused through its blubber. The dolphins and porpoises, both members of the whale family, are also totally unprovided with whalebone, and so are the grampus and the curious-tusked narwhal. There are, therefore, two divisions of whales, one has whalebone, either perfect or rudimentary, and is known as the Mysticeti; the other, the Odontoceti, has no whalebone.

Some more early butterflies to record! Mr. Campbell saw one, a tortoiseshell, on the 22nd of February, at Stevington, near Bedford. "W. D. D. D." found a butterfly of the same species early in this month in the house. The latter gentleman mentions that one or two tortoiseshells hibernate in his house nearly every winter.

Mrs. Baldwin kindly writes to say that her cat was troubled with the "influenza," as another correspondent's was. It had very violent fits of sneezing. I still think it quite possible that the disease is not the veritable Russian epidemic but a mere cold, such as cats are always liable to. There seems no proof that it is anything more. If it was the real fashionable complaint, it would have probably travelled among the whole race of cats, and not be confined to one or two individuals.

Those correspondents whose letters I have not been able to refer to this week, will find them noticed as soon as possible.

THE ACTOR.

The production the other day of a dramatic version of Mr. Rider Haggard's "Jes" emphasized in my mind what has always struck me as the greatest drawback to such dramatic experiments, namely, the difficulty experienced by the actors in fulfilling the ideals already formed by those who have read the stories dramatized. Everybody who has perused "Jes," must have formed a definite notion of what sort of person Jes herself, and her sister, and Captain Niel, and Frank Miller ought to be; and the artists who represented those characters had to contend against that notion.

For myself, I was willing to accept Miss Helen Forsyth as the younger sister, and Mr. Dalton as the villainous Boer. But Miss Everett Lawrence as Jess, and Mr. Thalberg as Niel, did not, physically, satisfy my imagination at all. I cannot conceive Mr. Haggard's Jess as speaking and looking like Miss Lawrence, excellently fitted as that lady is for certain roles. By the way, Miss Lawrence was the cause on Tuesday of a very marked stage-wait, which must have been very embarrassing to Mr. Thalberg, the only occupant of the boards at the time.

Altogether too little care is taken by actors, male and female, to choose or accept such parts as their physique and temperament fit them for. One hears, for example, of a forthcoming revival of an old comedy, in which a middle-aged actor will essay the rôle of a jeune premier, and in which the rôle of a girl of notable spirit and intelligence, not to say "dash" and wit, will be attempted by a lady who is very pretty and sweet, I grant you, but whose style has not (I think it will be granted) the breadth necessary for the part. Both actors are favourites, and will, no doubt be lavishly praised; but why go out of the way to discover roles so ill-fitting?

If one is going to say that which is not true, one should be careful in what company one says it. An afternoon or two ago, in a certain gathering, the talk among one of the groups ran upon the subject of a popular young actress, of whose youth, however, one of the party did not seem to be convinced. "She's forty if she's a day," he said. "I've known her myself for twenty years." "You haven't known her for twenty minutes," remarked a bystander, who had heard the statement, and what happened to be the young actress's husband. Once I can imagine the confusion that would be created by this prompt contradiction, which was, however, well justified by the impudence of the original assertion.

The revival by the Irving Dramatic Club of "The First Part of King Henry IV" has aroused fresh interest in that fine historical play of Shakspeare's. A glorious stage career that work has had. If I recollect rightly, it was seen at

the Olympia so recently as May, 1879. In 1879, it was revived at Drury Lane with Henry Marston as the King, Creweick as Hotspur. Two years previously it had been played at the City of London Theatre with Gustavus Brooke as the Hotspur, and John Ryder as Falstaff. Phelps played Falstaff at Sadler's Wells in 1886. Farther back than that we need not go.

It is rather singular that both in "A Village Priest" and in "Dick Venables" there should be an escaped convict, in the latter case, as the most prominent character in the piece, and in the former as a very prominent figure. Whereas, however, the convict in "A Village Priest" is an estimable person, who, at the end, distinguishes himself by much self-sacrifice, the convict in "Dick Venables" is a villain of the deepest dye.

On Easter Monday afternoon ardent pursuers of new things will have to decide whether they will go to the first performance of Mrs. Burnett's "Nixie" at Terry's, or travel down to Richmond, to be present at the opening of the theatre there. Little Lucy Webbing, who plays the child in "Nixie," will prove, I am told, a formidable rival of Vira Berenger. She has had a lot of experience in the country, and appears to have been very well received. Her mother evidently has faith in her, for she has arranged for matinées at Terry's for four weeks certain.

On Easter Wednesday Vira Berenger will make a fresh bid for popularity as "The Prince and the Pauper," in Mrs. Berenger's adaptation of Mark Twain's story. The dual part ought to suit the youthful actress admirably. "The Prince and the Pauper" will be given, like "Nixie," at matinées; so that the rivalry between the two child-actresses will be direct in every way. While, however, Vira plays two boys, Lucy will play a little girl; and no doubt those who see the one will want to see the other.

"The Gondoliers" began its provincial tour this week at Birmingham, under the pilothole of Mr. Redford, and I am glad to see that it was immediately successful. The first night was one of triumph. I note among the members of the company the name of Mr. Duncan Fleet, brother of Mr. Rutland Barrington, and known to us, so far, only as the boy in Mr. Gilbert's interesting "Brantingham Hall." Mr. George Temple, (brother of Richard of that name) plays Mr. Frank Wyatt's part; and the company appears to be, for the provinces, a strong one.

GENERAL CHATTER.

Owners of lead mines will not thank Dr. Stevenson for his patent target. By means of this very happy invention, bullets fired during practice are caught whole, instead of being smashed to fragments and scattered broadcast for many yards around. The lead is thus saved and can be again and again cast into bullets, while the markers are safeguarded against those "spatters" of the metal which often do such serious injury. In view of this immense economy, it may be assumed that the Government will, once adopt the Stevenson target for Army use. Whatever the initial cost might be, would be saved in the course of a year or two, not to speak of the less danger to human life.

Curious coincidence that Lord Mandeville should become Duke of Manchester simultaneously with the issue of an order for the commitment of Miss Bessie Bellwood to prison for contempt of court. Are their fates no longer intertwined?

Lord Cadogan's splendid gift to the Guinness Trust should shut the mouths of the rabid bowlers who denounce him as an oppressor of the poor. That he has cleared away a lot of slums and rookeries to make way for better dwellings is perfectly true. But he shows by his present generosity that he did not overlook the inconvenience which resulted to those dispossessed of their homes. The area, valued at £40,000, which he has handed over as a site for working class dwellings, will accommodate far more than the number of labouring families rendered homeless by his previous clearances. He is rich, no doubt, but his wealth does not nearly equal that of Lord Rosebery or Lord Ripon, neither of whom has ever stretched out a financial finger to help London's poor.

A theory is started by a scientific writer that baldness results from dyspepsia. According to my experience, this is an entirely fanciful assumption. Old Tom Carlyle, the sage of Chelsea, was a confirmed dyspeptic, but he preserved his wonderful mass of hair up to the last. Precisely the same was the case with my own father, and I could mention scores of other instances in which dyspepsia and hirsute honours have gone together. That premature baldness is becoming far more common than it used to be admits of no controversy, but we must look elsewhere than to derangement of the digestive apparatus for the cause.

That most instructive document, the annual trade circular of Messrs. George White and Co., the well-known tea brokers of Fenchurch-street, shows that Indian and Ceylon teas are still pushing Chinese out of the market. This is by no means produced by their superior cheapness. In that respect, John Chinaman still surpasses all rivals. It is because the British housewife has learned to appreciate the better quality and greater strength of Indian and Ceylon teas that she gives them the preference. Although higher in price, they afford better value for the money than the rubbish exported by the Celestials.

A poetic youth, living amid rural felicity, lately wrote to a literary friend in London, asking for advice about the best way of publishing a volume of poetry. The reply was, "Get it privately printed, and then make a bonfire of the whole issue. That will save you disappointment, and will spare the public much irritation." Excellent advice!

It is to be hoped that Mr. Stanley's health and strength are sufficiently restored to admit of his going through the trying campaign which awaits him. On the 7th of April he starts for London, taking Paris on his way, and at both capitals will have to endure an incessant round of entertainments. This is the penalty of greatness nowadays; no sooner does a hero return to civilisation after undergoing all manner of perils, than society tries to kill him with kindness. Fortunately, Mr. Stanley is pretty tough, although not the same man that he was before he started to rescue Emin Pacha and the Wedelai garrison.

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From Punch.)

"MOMS BUT THE BAWS DESERVE THE FARE."—The Rector's Wife (at school feast, to one of the boys, who had been doing very "good business") : What's the matter, Noggins? Don't you feel well?—Noggins: No, m'm—but I'll have to be wuss, m'm—before I give in!

"FOUR LES BEAUX YUUX."—Last week Dr. Ogle lectured excellently well and very wisely on the statistics of marriage in England. Altogether, it appears that this is not a marrying-age. Those young men and maidens who are in search of partners for life, must keep their eyes open, and Ogle. Very leery advice would be expected from anyone of the name of Ogle.

Mr. PUNCH'S DICTIONARY OF PHRASES.—SOCIAL.—You are one of the few people with whom I can really enjoy a quiet talk, all to our two selves; i.e., I should be very sorry to introduce you to any of my set.—What you here? i.e., Wonder how the decent confounded cad got an invitation.—Ah, by the way, just let me introduce you to Farro-dust. You two fellows ought to know each other; i.e., Call that killing two birds with one stone.—Thanks for a most delighted evening. So sorry to have to run away; i.e., Bored to extinction, and fairly famished.—Must run down to the club for a snack and a smoke.—I'll look at my list when I get home; i.e., You don't catch me.—Drop in any day; i.e., When the chances are I shan't be in.—No party, i.e., Must ask him, and do it as cheaply as possible.—Come as you are; i.e., Be careful to wear evening dress.—Don't trouble to answer; i.e., Thinkin' you're rude if you don't.—What's going already; i.e., Thank goodness! Thought sh'd never move.—What a fine child! i.e., Don't know whether the brat is boy or girl, but must say something.

"GO TO BATH!"—Yes, to make sketches and flattering comments, but not to ridicule the dullness and dinginess of the place, or the local papers will "slate" you. They don't like "the New Bath Guy"!

"LENTEN ENTERTAINMENT."—Going to see Succi, the fasting man. By the way, very wrong of Succi not to avail himself of the Papal dispensation.

The coal strike was easily settled, as all that had to be discussed were "Minor Considerations."

(From Judy.)

"NO QUARTER" DAY.—Landlord: Fifteen pounds, sixteen shillings, and eightpence.—Young Wife:

"I'm very sorry, but Mr. Graham is out of town."

Landlord: Now, look here, madam, I won't have it!—Y. W.: Very, well, then; if you won't have it, why do much so much bother about it?

Too Much Engaged.—"Yes," said Mrs. Pincherne, "I'm tolerably certain that that Smith girl is engaged at last. How do I know it?" Why, when I see a girl reading the marriage service all the morning long, and practising trying on an umbrella ring on her third finger, and when she contradicts her dear mother 50 per cent. more than usual, and when she finds out how all her little brothers are dreadfully common and really ought to be smacked and sent to bed at seven, and when she goes into a half faint at the mention of the word "garlic" in the salad, and when she says that her appetite isn't any better than that of a consumptive butterfly, then you may depend upon it that that girl has got her eye fixed on a semi-detached villa and a wedding cake, and couldn't clearly see anything else in the world, even with a pair of the latest Edison's sight improvers."

MORALS FOR THE MULTITUDE.—THE DISPENSING CHEMIST.—An apothecary who had borne the sore affliction of a severe malady for some years, and for whom the prescriptions of physicians were absolutely in vain, resolved to dispense with drugs and trust entirely to the dispensations of Providence. To the delight of his friends his case at once began to mend, and he was soon completely recovered. The medical gentleman who had most recently attended him thereupon arrogated to himself the credit of the cure, and the apothecary was fool enough to believe him. This fable shows that "Doctor's stuff" may be swallowed without taking any medicine.

THE GREAT MAN.—It was a hen-pecked husband who complained that he had been obliged to pawn his breeches to prevent his wife from wearing them.

SPORTING NOTE.—Whatever sportsmen may think upon the subject, we may depend upon it that barbers are a class of the community who believe in a "close time for hairs."

PROBABLY.—The fighting weight of the warriors in the Trojan war was calculated by Troy weight.

"Where do you hang out?" as the lady asked the laundress.

(From Fun.)

WHOLLY BLUE.—Maud: How beautifully the Dark Blues feather!—Mabel: Oh, I like the Cambridge feathers better. Don't you, Mary?—Mary: I don't know much about their respective feathers; but I think they are all ducks.

SWEET GIRL GRADUATES.—Peter: Ah! They'll soon be here; that's Lord's steamer.—Miss Prettypert. And haven't the ladies got one?—Miss Jollidowse: The men keep everything they can to themselves; don't they, dear? They won't let the Girton and Newnham girls row.—Peter: Oh! but they let them wrangle!—His daughter and Niece (ensemble): Oh! all girls can do that.

THE HUZ OF RESOLUTION.—He: And so you cannot marry me, Georgina. Oh, at least tell me the ground of your objection.—She: Well, George, you know you rowed for Oxford, and you'd always be wanting me to go to the boatrace, and dark blue doesn't suit my complexion.

THE PARNELL COMMISSION.—Pat: Now, boys! There's a Saxon Parlymunt for ye! Thanks the commissioners for their impartiality! Begorra! 'twould have been a different kind of impartiality if it had been three Oirishmen was the commissioners.

HE INQUIRED TOO CURIOUSLY.—Mr. Nestington (who "can't bear not to know"): You never notice the Jolliflowers when you meet I observe. Why?—Mrs. Nestington: Ah! I don't think I ever told you; I took a mean advantage of my being out of town to get engaged to Mr. Jolliflower.

A FEMININE FOIBLE.—He: When will you be finished reading that letter?—She: Oh! I'm not nearly done, I've only just begun the postscript.

SHARPS AND FLATS.—The Pasteboard Merchant: Yer' y're, sir; try agin; a suverin to half couter you don't pick out the jack.—Deluded One: Thanks, I'm cleaned out; but I've no doubt where the knave is now.

4 "Dsoor" too MUCH.—Masher "Pro": And, I assure you, when I came to the pathetic part, you might have heard a pin drop.—Cynical Friend: What pin? A rolling pin?—[But he didn't pin his faith to this criticism.]

THE STRIKER TO BE ENVIED.—The man who struck oil.

THE COPTING PARSE.—The scissor and paste journals.

What country is that which a fastidious person would desire to avoid at all times?—Messy-potamus.

(From Funny Folks.)

M.P.—CUNIOSITY.—Mrs. Stoney Broke: Dear, dear! here are some hills. What are we to do?—Mr. Stoney Broke, M.P.: I move they be laid on the table and read this day six months.

DASH MY BUTTONS!—Lady (to an applicator for page's situation): And have you had any educational advantages?—New Boy: N-no, mum; but I been vaccinated, and I got the measles!

People who are generally in Force, and also conspicuous by their Absence, about Lady Day—Left-tenants.

Most ANNOYING.—M. le Marquis (to fair American visiting Paris): Ah, mademoiselle! You think Paris is gay now. You should have seen it under the whole régime. For example, before the death of Louis Quinze.—Fair American (breathlessly): Oh, do not tell me he is dead, M. le Marquis! How annoying, just when pap had promised me, too, that he should make the furniture for the new drawing-room!

A LONG-ICAL DEDUCTION.—One of the prandial events at Freemasons' Hall lately has been the dinner of the Polish National Lodge. Evidently

just the sort of spread for the guests to Polish off.

Sergeant Palmer's tales about Tel-el-Kebir are looked at very much askance. Possibly it is thought that the narrator is living up to his name, and palming off all these little narratives upon a (supposed) guileless public.

Mr. Edison is now said to be actively engaged upon the invention of a talking timepiece. This may indeed be a wonderful thing, and yet we fail to see where the novelty comes in. Why, ever since the days of our childhood clocks have been known to tell the time!

Sheets That are Always Well-aired.—The stern-sheets of a ship.

A Sin of "Owe"-mission—Neglecting to pay back the half-crown one has borrowed.

A Sporting Fixture—The Grand Stand.

(From Ally Sloper.)

"Was he really much of a drinker, after all?" asked Johnson, junior, as he Niagara'd the last two penn'orth in the direction of his healthy larynx. "Much indeed! I should think so, rather! Why, the very cat that slept in his bed-doom died of delirium tremens; and the fumes of alcohol were so strong about the house that the two canaries in the kitchen window couldn't get a note out on account of the jumps."

"Pray, what are you writing?" his wife inquired.

"Why, 'Wrinkles,' my dear," he replied.

"Tis false! you write to the girl you admired At dinner last night," cried his bride.

"I saw you make eyes at the table d'hôte.

"Tell me a falsehood so base."

"Twas truth," said the man. "Please see what I wrote."

It was Lines on a Lady's face.

"The only time I ever knew false teeth come in handy was when my poor dear Aunt Louisa, as ever was, looked out of the bed-room window at the burglars trying to get in at the kitchen door. When she screamed she opened her mouth so wide that her teeth fell out. The top set killed one of them burglars, the bottom would have done for the other, only, just then, her false hair flattened down on to the wound and stayed the effusion of blood. I'm not given to exaggerate, as you know!" That young man has since died of poison, and a jolly good job too.

You've seen all our lawyers, and authors who write,

Artists, inventors, and scholars, maybe,

But you've never seen ought so clever or bright As a young couple's first little baby.

Proud Landlord of House not 100 miles from Jough-town, Fleet-street: This was Dr. Johnson's house, sir.—Intending Lodger: Oh, indeed!—Proud Landlord: Yes; in fact, this was the very room he slept in.—Intending Lodger: Humph! I hope you've shifted everything since he left, for those doctors are apt to bring all sorts of contagious diseases home with 'em.

"Well, how is business?" asked a friendly customer. "Doing nothing," said the chemist ad dressed. "Medicine is a drug in the market."

THE GARDEN.

WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR "THE PEOPLE."

Work Among Roses.

Finish the pruning at once; even those plants recently set out may be cut back now. Exhibitors who wish for a few very fine blooms to fill their exhibition boxes usually cut pretty hard back, or say to three or four buds; but those who wish for a lot of flowers may leave the shoots longer. But in all cases the heads of the plants should be thinned out, removing the weak growths from the centre. Newly planted roses should be cut hard back; two eyes left at the base are better than more. Inexperienced pruners generally leave the wood of newly planted roses too long. I was looking round an amateur's garden last year, and I ventured a remark upon this question of shortening newly-planted roses, as I saw he did not shorten so much as I am in the habit of doing. My friend said he wanted plenty of roses, and could not wait even for the trees to get established. It is a case of killing the goose that would have laid the golden eggs. I can understand any one who wants a garden full of roses leaving old-established plants a good length, but it is a great mistake to leave more wood in newly planted roses than two or three buds. In the case to which I have referred the shoots were left a foot long, or in some instances more. The top eyes only had broken, those at the bottom were not started, and as a matter of course there was nothing to form a head with.

Remove Suckers.

wherever seen, cutting them off as near the main stem as possible, and rub off all shoots on the newly budded briars. If not already done, the standard briars intended for budding this season should be got into shape, cutting off all the side shoots close to the stem, and shortening back the main stem to the desired height. It is also advisable to saw a wire or stout string along the rows to which the briars may be fastened to keep them steady. If rose beds require manure it should be given at once and forked in. This loosening up of the surface with the fork towards the end of March has a beneficial effect upon the health of the plants. Letting in the air and sunshine sweetens the soil and encourages root action. When the hot weather sets in the beds may be mulched again with manure.

Insects on Roses

must be dealt with the moment they appear. There are numberless remedies offered to a confounding public for every trouble or plague in life, but as a rule the simplest things are the best.

Soapsuds syringed over the bushes occasionally, whether insects are visible or not, will do much towards keeping the plants healthy and vigorous. If the roses are left till they are very much infested then something stronger will be required.

A quart of tobacco liquor in a three gallon water pot well stirred up will destroy the flies, or three ounces of quassia chips boiled in a gallon of water, and diluted afterwards with another gallon of water will kill aphides. Tobacco powder dusted over the infested parts is a very useful agent to employ, especially early in the season.

Pruning an Old Gloire de Dijon Rose.

"J. A."—This beautiful old rose, though one of the very best for covering a high wall, is apt to get naked at the bottom if the top is left unpruned. In such a case the best thing to do is to trim the tree well by cutting out some of the oldest branches. This will give encouragement to the young shoots that will break away from the bottom, and which may be nailed in the whole length. This is the wood to encourage to produce a good lot of fine flowers.

In the Kitchen Garden

takes advantage of fine weather, when the land works kindly, to plant and sow such things as peas, beans, carrots, onions, parsnips, lettuces, radishes, potatoes, and Jerusalem artichokes. Globe artichokes are not much grown in small gardens, and probably other crops are more useful. Make the usual sowings of winter greens, the most important of which are broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and savoy cabbages. Chou de Burghley is a very useful winter green. It is a cross between a cabbage and a broccoli, and is very hardy. It derives its name from Burghley Park, near Stamford, where it was raised by Mr. Gilbert, the Marquis of Exeter's gardener. Sow cauliflower for autumn, and plant out any plants that have been wintered in the frame or otherwise protected. There will be plenty of work now, hunting up slugs and snails, and no quarter should be given. The best way is to lay traps of bran or grain, and examine them early in the morning and late in the evening when the weather is mild.

Hardy Fernery.

Any alterations required should be done at once, as hardy ferns of all kinds will move with safety now, and their propagation may be carried out by division of the root-crowns. A light top-dressing of leaf mould and peat will be beneficial to the established rockery. It will not only give a neat

appearance, but will encourage growth. All dead and discoloured foliage may be cut away before the top-dressing is applied.

Choice Auriculas and Primulas may have a top dressing of turfy loam and leaf mold with a little sharp sand mixed with it. Remove a little of the old surface soil with a pointed stick before placing on the new compost.

Cuttings of Zonal Pelargoniums for next winter's flowering may be rooted now singly in small pots. There is plenty of variety select from: Henry Jacoby is one of the best scarlets for the work. The semi-double variety, F. V. Raspail, is also a most useful winter bloomer. La Cymre is a good double white, and Lady Sheffield a very useful pink. It is not necessary to grow a large number of seeds to have a fine display. Once get hold of a really good winter bloomer, and then to make a show grow duplicates of each until something better comes up.

Gladiolas may now be Planted.

They look pretty in groups of five or six bulbs set back about two feet or so into the border. Cover the bulbs about three inches deep and set them about five or six inches apart in the groups. A good way of doing it is to plant five bulbs and circle about 12 in. or so in diameter, and then drop the sixth in the centre. These groups may be six feet apart all along the border. The scarlet gladiolus bryoniensis is very bright and effective, and, moreover, it is cheap. Good bulbs can be purchased for 5s. per 100, and any one fond of his garden, and having a long border to make gay, might do many worse things with 5s. than spend it upon gladiolus.

Sow Carrots and Beet.

The best carrot for main crop is James Scarlet intermediate. Sow in drills one foot apart, and then cut to four inches. More space is often given, but scarcely any one cares for large carrots for table use. The best seed for sowing now is the turnip-rooted kind. It turns in quickly; but where beetroot is appreciated it will be well to sow again towards the end of the month or the beginning of May the long-rooted varieties for winter use. Sow beets in drills fifteen inches apart, and then to nine inches in the rows.

Window Plants.

Green flies will appear now on pelargoniums, &c., and must be kept down either by hand-picking or washing with a soft sponge dipped in soft soap and water.

ADAM.

TURNING THE TABLES.

At the Hammersmith Police Court, Robert Conway Campbell, alias Hamilton, alias Captain Fabian Stanhope, alias Stanmore, alias White, &c., a tall well-dressed man, who has been living at 7, Great Western-road, Paddington, was charged on remand, before Mr. D'Eyncourt, with stealing a diamond ring from a young woman named Brooks, living in Trevor-square, Knightsbridge.—It was alleged by the prosecution that the prisoner met Brooks in Piccadilly, and accompanied her to her lodgings on the night of February 5th. Next morning, after he had left, she found that the ring in question was missing. She reported the matter to the police, and a few days later meeting the accused, she went up to him and demanded her ring. To avoid a scene he hailed a cab, and almost pushed her and a female friend into it. She got out while the vehicle was in motion to charge him, and to her astonishment he asserted that she and her friend had stolen his watch, and on this complaint they were locked up from Saturday till Monday. The watch was alleged to the defendant to be worth 23s, but according to the evidence given at the hearing of the charge against the young woman it was not worth as many shillings. The prosecutor in that case did not appear, and it was found that he had given a false address. Brooks declared that he put the watch into her hands in his endeavour to dislodge her from charging him with the theft of the ring.—Detective Butterworth deposed that prisoner, when arrested walking in the Brompton road, said his name was Stanmore, and Detective sergeant Scott, C Division, proved a sentence of twelve months' hard labour against him for stealing from clubs after a previous conviction at Lewes for felony.—The accused was committed for trial, bail being refused.

The Brussels Geographical Society is preparing a great reception to Mr. Stanley.

Dr. J. D. Thomas was informed last week that the body of a male child in a nude condition was found at West Hampstead, and from the general appearance of the body, death had resulted from neglect at birth.

John Quincey Saunders, aged 45 years, labourer, residing with his wife at No. 23, Ely-place, Dorset-street, Clapham, was admitted to St. Thomas' Hospital having been seriously injured at the Subway Works, Kennington Oval.

The last of the series of excellent concerts given by members of the Bohemian Musical Society at the Crystal Palace took place on the 20th inst. under the presidency of Sir Somers Vines. As usual, there

THE THEATRES.

THE OUTLYING THEATRES.

Sadler's Wells Theatre has been re-opened, under the management of Miss Florence Holton, the authoress of an original drama produced on the 22nd inst., entitled "His Hidden Revenge." The piece deals with a plot to wreck the happiness of a young married couple by various villainous schemes extending over five acts. Miss Holton undertakes the part of the heroine, and displays considerable ability, and the company which supports her are well chosen. The piece is well mounted and staged, and fully merits a prosperous run.—"The Romany Rye," in consequence of its unexpected success will be kept in the bill at the Elephant and Castle four nights longer. On Saturday following Good Friday, "Our Are" will be produced.—"Hand in Hand," a drama of the sensational order by Mr. E. Darby, was favourably received by a large audience at the Surrey Theatre on Monday last. This was the first time this piece had been seen in London, though it was produced in the provinces towards the close of last year, and has since met with considerable success on tour. It is fitly termed a comedy-drama, the comic element largely prevailing, and of this work a large share falls to Mr. G. Conquest, jun., as a costermonger-poet. Mrs. Bennett admirably and pathetically impersonated the heroine, but it would hardly be fair to comment on the acting of the remainder of the company, their parts affording few opportunities on which to base criticism. The mounting is good, several ingenious effects are introduced, and this, coupled with the sensational situations revealed, leave no doubt that the piece will find favour with the audience until replaced by the forthcoming holiday production.—The revivals underlined to production at the other outlying theatres are as follows:—Grand, "Our American Cousin"; Britannia, "Man to Man"; Standard, "Jane Shore"; Marylebone, "Marry Life" and "Black Susan"; and Stratford Theatre, "Our Flat."

ROYAL MUSIC HALL.

There is a capital programme to be enjoyed here just now, the entertainment being made up of a collection of items that can hardly fail to please the most ardent of music hall habitues. There is something humorous and entertaining in all of them, and several are especially diverting. Considerable interest attaches to the engagement of Miss Kate Chard, well-known in operatic circles, with her well-rended operatic selections. Another important feature is a pantomime sketch, entitled "The Eloperation." In this appear the Albert and Edmunds troupe, and the pantomime connected with this piece is as enjoyable as one is accustomed to expect from this clever troupe. Mr. G. H. Macdermott has a good collection of songs, and he renders them in his usual excellent style. Those who appreciate the essays of Mr. Macdermott will hardly fail to enjoy the laughable and lively contributions of Mr. Arthur Corney, who sings his songs in a marked and original way. Two clever acrobats, Messrs. Aza and Zebia, are to be seen here, and their sound-saults and balancing tricks are above the average. Mr. T. Ryan and Miss Kitchfield unite in a smart variety act. It is really an attractive sketch, full of wit, spirit, and gaiety. There is true humour in all. Mr. James Fawn's impersonations, and some of his lines are exceptionally well pointed. Mr. John Le Hay, a ventriloquist of some merit, does not cast his entertainment in exactly the same mould as his contemporaries, and this, perhaps, gives his subjects greater interest. Among the other items mention may be made of Mr. Wingfield's performing dogs, the Kellino troupe of acrobats, Sam Tarr and George Leyton, comedians; Sadie Grossmith, ballad vocalist; Misses M. Graham and Dora Fielding, serio-comedians; and others. Mr. T. Carlton is about to resign his appointment as manager, and it must in justice be said that he leaves a record that it will be hard to beat.

"The Late Lamented" is said to be the title Mr. Horner of "Le Bungalow" will give to his adaptation of "Feu Journeau," the latest success of the Paris Vaudeville, the English acting rights of which the manager of "Tool's" for the time being has just acquired.—"Stanley" is the very English name of a new French drama to be produced in Paris next September.—Farmer Aymer Matthews, of the United States, has entered a civil action against the managers, Frohmann, D. Belasco, and H. Demille, claiming £10,000 damages for piracy in respect of his acted play, entitled "The Wife." This playwriting agriculturist who rates his dramatic worth at so exalted a figure should be reminded by defendants that in the very name of his piece he himself has pirated the title of one of Sheridan Knowles' most popular plays, "The Wife, a Tale of Mantua."—M. Coquelin, the eminent comedian, late of the Comédie Française, has been lecturing his compatriots upon the comparative merits of Shakspere and Molière, giving the palm with most emphatic positiveness to the founder of his house, mainly because Coquelin did not preserve the unities even to the limited extent observed by the great English dramatist. This is a strange argument from a French actor, considering that Corneille, Racine, Voltaire, Beaumarchais, and, indeed, all the classic writers of the French stage, save Molière, punctiliously respected the unities in their dramas as a sacredly inviolable tradition, transmitted to them by the classic Greek and Roman playwrights upon whose works their own were strictly modelled. An unbiased critic would perceive and acknowledge that Ben Jonson and Sheridan came nearer in quality to Molière than Molière did to Shakespeare. Such, at any rate, is the German estimate of the comparative value of the French and English master dramatists.—It is proverbially useless to kick a dead horse, so, despite the critic's sufferings, it is best to forgive and forget the production of the past week's two matinées, "Andromeda" with "No. 2" at the Vaudeville, and the dramatisation of Mr. Rider Haggard's novel "Joss" at the Adelphi, as they are certain never—never—to be resurrected.—An English translator of the "Antigone" of Sophocles is shortly to be performed at the Westminster Hall by amateurs assisted, it is said, by two of the most popular actors of the London stage.—On the revival of the good old Adelphi melodrama, "The Green Bushes," at its original location, Miss Mary Rorke is to enact the picturesque part of Miami, the Indian huntress, and Miss Kate James that of Nelly O'Neil, the Irish ballad singer; while Grindings, the Cookney showman, will fall to Mr. Lionel Rignold. The original representatives of these characters respectively were Madame Celeste, Mrs. Fitzwilliam, and Edward Wright. "The Green Bushes" follows "London Day by Day."

Two unknown authors have been commissioned by Mr. George Edwards, of the Gaiety, to write a burlesque upon the subject of Joan of Arc, in which Miss Ellen Farren assumes the part of the famous maid of Orleans.—Mrs. Macklin is to appear, after long absence from the stage, as Lady Gay Spanker in "London Assurance," with her husband as Dazzle, at an afternoon performance at the Avenue on the 22nd April.—The acting rights of Mr. W. L. Courtney's short tragic drama, entitled "Kit Marlowe's Death," appearing in the current number of the "Universal Review," has been secured by Mr. Bourchier, of the St. James's, who may be advised to compare this dramatic scene of the tavern brawl at which Shakspere's great predecessor came to his untimely and ignoble end with a powerful one-act tragedy depicting the same lurid theme, entitled "The Death of Marlowe," written by late R. H. Horne, author of "Orion." Phelps at one time contemplated the production of Horne's play at Sadler's Wells, with himself in the role of Marlowe. By a curious coincidence both of these plays close with the same well-known couplet from Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus":—

Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight,
And withered is Apollo's laurel bough.
—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal are to have a reception in the nature of a welcome home by their many friends and admirers at the Whitehall Room of

the Hotel Metropole on the 26th June.—Mrs. Oscar Beringer's dramatisation of Mark Twain's "Prince and Pauper" is to be produced at a series of Gaiety matinees given through Easter week.—"She Stoops to Conquer" will be Mr. Charles Wyndham's next revival at the Criterion, to follow "David Garrick," with himself as Young Marlow, Mr. W. Blakely as Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. G. Giddens as Tony Lumpkin, Miss Mary Moore as Kate Hardcastle, and Miss M. A. Victor as Mrs. Heidelberg. This gives a capital cast, which, however, would be even better were Mr. Farren, now engaged in the theatre, to play his father's famous part of Squire Hardcastle.—"In the Queen's Name," a drama written by two new playwrights, Messrs. Delille and Trevor, will be produced in London, and also in America, in the course of the season.—Miss Florence St. John and Mr. Lonnion are to play the chief parts in Messrs. Sims and Pettitt's new travesty of "Carmen" on its production at the Gaiety.—The Mohawk Minstrels will give two sacred concerts on Good Friday, and there will be two performances of the holiday programme on Easter Monday and Tuesday.—There are two benefits of music hall proprietors fixed for next week. Mr. W. Lushby's, at the Forester's, Mile End, on Monday; and Messrs. Acton Phillips and Sons, at the Hammersmith Temple of Varieties, on Wednesday. A special entertainment will also be given at the Canterbury Theatre of Varieties in aid of the funds of the Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage on the same day.—The summer amusements at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, will this year be managed by Mr. R. F. Bottin.

We were inaccurate last week in stating that Miss Adelaide Moore's season at the Globe theatre would be for a series of matinees. It is not Miss Moore's intention to give more than the regular Saturday matinees in connection with the evening performances. She will open at the Globe on June 10th, after her provincial tour, which will include visits to Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, &c.

EXTRAORDINARY BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

Heavy Damages.

At the Birmingham Assizes, Florence Jennie Day, of Camp Hill, Birmingham, sued Morris Roberts, of the Sherborne Hotel, Birmingham, to recover £500 damages for breach of promise of marriage, assault, and slander. Mr. J. Darling, Q.C., Mr. J. S. Pritchett, and Mr. J. Morrison appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. A. Young and Mr. Stubbs for the defendant.—In opening the case Mr. Darling said it was one of the most intricate and scandalous affairs which had ever come before a court of assize. Miss Day was the daughter of a Post Office inspector, and had received a liberal education, having gained several scholarships at the Royal Academy of Music. In 1878 she made the acquaintance of the defendant, who was landlord of the Sherborne Hotel, and on March 16th, 1880, he, as alleged, induced her to go through a form of marriage at the hotel, before a person who was said to be a registrar entitled to perform marriages. From that time Miss Day lived with Roberts as his wife until 1887. She retained possession of the certificate of marriage given to her by the sham registrar. In 1881 plaintiff heard that Roberts had a wife living, and on speaking to defendant about it he said he could not deny it, but would marry the plaintiff whenever he had news of the death of his wife. Subsequently he heard that his wife was dead, and on May 23rd, 1882, they were married at the Lambeth Registry Office, whereupon Roberts obtained from his wife, Miss Day, the certificate of the sham marriage he had gone through with her, and destroyed it. The life of the couple was most unhappy, frequent quarrels taking place, when defendant violently assaulted and turned her out of the house. Divorce proceedings were commenced, and Roberts's law firm appeared and went into the witness-box, and defendant submitted to a decree for nullity of marriage.—The plaintiff, Florence Jennie Day, having given evidence, the defendant denied the mock marriage, and made serious allegations of impropriety against plaintiff.—The judge described defendant's conduct as infamous.—The jury retired for twenty minutes, and then returned into court.—In answer to the judge, the foreman said they had agreed to a verdict for the plaintiff, and they assessed damages in the following manner:—For the breach of promise of marriage, £700; for the fraud which prevented the plaintiff from discovering or ascertaining her rights, £1,000; for the assault, £700; and for the slander, £100; making a total of £2,500.—The judge made an order for costs to go with the verdict, and certified for a special jury.—When the announcement of the jury's verdict was made the spectators in the body of the court cheered and clapped loudly.

CARROTY.

At the London County Sessions, Joseph Miller, 23, labourer, was indicted for assaulting and beating three police-constables of the H Division while in the execution of their duty.—The prisoner and another man were quarrelling in a street at the East-end of the town. When they were requested to go away by Police-constable Edmund Barrett, 125 H, the prisoner struck Barrett a violent blow in the face and knocked him down. This violent behaviour he followed up by assaulting George Seymour, 432 H, and Francis Wright, 612 H, when Barrett called them to his assistance.—During the hearing of the case objection was taken by the counsel for the defence that some communication had been made to the jury by one of the officers concerned, and he thought it very improper.—The jury found the prisoner guilty. The juror to whom the reference had been made caused much amusement by stating that he had simply made a remark that he, the prisoner, and the learned counsel were "carroty" (that they all had red hair).—The learned chairman said he had been convicted of a very grievous assault upon Barrett and Seymour. The police must be protected, and for the assault upon Barrett he would have to undergo twelve months, and for the other assault six months—eighteen months in all.

JUVENILE GAMBLING.

At Leicester Naddock Taylor, described as a shoe finisher pleaded guilty to using his premises for gambling purposes.—Evidence was given that the defendant allowed lads from ten to fifteen years old to meet at his house. He charged them £1, for admission, with an extra 3d. if they stayed all night, and the lads played cards for small stakes. They mostly met on Saturdays and Sundays, and stopped all night.—The bench sentenced Taylor to three months' hard labour.

The so-called auction business now being carried on in many London thoroughfares, by which the unwary public are induced, by the aid of confederates (technically called "jollies") to pay at least treble value for inferior goods, have become such an evil that many influential tradesmen, both for their own protection and that of the public, have decided to take vigorous action in the matter.

Do you want to be free from that terrible pain you feel in your head and stomach and back? If so, I can strongly recommend these pills, which I have been taking for some time. They are the Cowry Liver Pills; every one a genuine cowrie shell from months from Indostan and General Liver Disease; he was induced to give these pills a trial; he obtained relief in three days, and would not be without them now under any circumstances. Price 1s. 6d. per bottle, or from the Wholesale Agents, Bartley and Sons, Limited, 91, Farringdon-street, London.—(Adv.).

A LADY writes:—"Dear Mrs. Leach.—I have much pleasure in telling you of the great value of your Books on Fancy Work. They are without doubt, the most useful books for ladies." See Mrs. Leach's Book on Fancy Work. Price Two-pence each book complete. Fully illustrated, with explicit directions. Leach's Mounting Knitting. Leach's Crochet Knitting. Leach's Knitting. Leach's Smoking Lessons. Leach's Knitting. Leach's Fancy Bazaar. Leach's Art of Dreammaking. All newagents, or any three books post free three shillings.

Mrs. Leach, 6, Johnson's-court, Fleet-street, London.—(Adv.).

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

When every care will be taken to ensure the accuracy of replies, the editor cannot accept responsibility for personal errors. Questions requiring to be answered must reach us at least a week before the morning of the next week. Letters, not accompanied by a stamped envelope or wrapper, will be destroyed. When an envelope or wrapper is sent, the name of the sender should be written on the back, and the name of the addressee on the front. All questions should be headed "Legal," "Household," "Miscellaneous," or otherwise, in accordance with their specific character, in order to facilitate classification.

LEGAL.

RAILWAY MAN.—It was not a piece of very vulgar abuse; the law provides no remedy.

H. B.—The assessment depends upon the judgment of the assessing authority. There is no "usual percentage of reduction."

H. S. T.—1. We cannot form the faintest idea as to your meaning. 2. If the executors were unable to complete the proceeding within the prescribed time, that would be full justification.

A. LOCKETT.—It can be crossed, but it would not be legal tender.

M.—You have a right to the month's wages, but cannot claim compensation.

PRESTO.—You must pay the rent in full, or suffer the usual penalty.

T. COOPER.—Take legal proceedings for recovery in the county court.

J. W.—Apply to the secretary of the guild, who will inquire into your claim.

J. L.—You would have to proceed against the husband, but we cannot say whether you would be likely to win the day.

A. CONSTANT READER.—1. Only to the extent of any property she brought into the house. You must either take her or provide with a suitable home.

W. HOOKE.—Poison is the only effectual method of dealing with them when they appear in such numbers. Any of the numerous rat poisons will do, and it is generally better to buy them already prepared.

I. CROFT.—Double-boiled eggs are not at all very unpalatable.

T. CAMPBELL.—Don't give the food squashes. It is better to give them dry grain or meal and fresh water. Any vegetables, such as carrots, &c., will be a welcome change for them. You can keep the buck and doves.

T. THOMAS.—It was probably a case of trichinae.

T. WOODS.—The only way to cut its claws is with a pair of sharp scissors. It must be done very carefully so as not to touch the flesh.

him in a draught. The best seed is canary with a little rye.

POTMAN.—You can buy powders for destroying insects in birds at most bird-shops.

A. BACCHUS.—A canary male is a cross between a canary and a linnet, goldfinch, or other bird.

G. C.—It is good for stopping them from coming out. As it is in good plumage it does not matter.

CHARLIE WOOD.—The cause of the change of colour is probably due to the entire feeding on hempseed. As to the worth, some people might be inclined to give more than half for it as a curiosity, but such birds have no fixed value.

T. WOODS.—During the close season thrushes may only be caught by the owner or occupier of any land, or by any person authorised by him, on such land. We can fully appreciate your wish.

BINGER.—We should certainly accuse the mice in such a case. It is difficult to see what else could have caused it.

MARY.—Thanks for account of pectoral cancer.

G. SMITH.—There is nothing to wash the cat thoroughly. Insect powder, such as Naldiire's, would be also beneficial and harmless.

TARON.—About six or eight newts, two small carp, and five or six minnows. If this does not work satisfactorily, try a smaller number.

K. SEAGROVE.—"Buckland Junior" is unfortunately too busy to be able to make an appointment. From your description it is difficult to determine the species, but if you would furnish us with further particulars as to colour, &c., we will endeavour to find it out.

W. HOOKE.—Poison is the only effectual method of dealing with them when they appear in such numbers. Any of the numerous rat poisons will do, and it is generally better to buy them already prepared.

I. CROFT.—Double-boiled eggs are not at all very unpalatable.

T. CAMPBELL.—The fishery is a fairly good one; trout of large size are frequently taken there. It has been a private subscription for at least thirty years.

CICERO.—I know little about the fishing in Spain.

EQUAINE.—I would recommend you to purchase "The Book of the All-round Angler," by John Rydekerke, published by L. G. Upton, 1886, £1.60.

F. T. B.—No; there are several objections.

FLORIDA.—Maidenhead should suit you; there are several good hotels; the Ray Head, situated near the lake Harry Wilder can pilot you to the best places. The fly is not used much. The season opens on April 1st.

G. W. W.—The general angling season for coarse fish opens on April 1st. The towpath between Kingston and Teddington is excellent.

HENRY JONES.—1. See answer to "Enquirer." 2. Some parts of the Lea are public and others private water.

ANGLING.

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CYCLING.

BILL ADAMS.—1. You can get one of any strength, from very light to very substantial. 2. It is a matter of opinion; the objection is the difficulty of getting them replaced if broken on the road. 3. You must consult your own judgment.

CYCLIST.—No record of the performance.

SCORCHER.—Seven or eight miles an hour is quite fast enough for urban thoroughfares in which there is much traffic.

WARM.—It cannot be prevented. No doubt you perspire equally when taking other exercise of a vigorous sort, such as running.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

On Saturday the preliminary marches, which are so excellent a preparation for the arduous work undertaken by the Volunteers in utilising the impending Easter holiday, were carried out by four or fifteen of the metropolitan battalions, and on the various roads leading out of the metropolis—north, south, east, and west—they were found in greater or less numbers, in scarlet, blue, green, and grey, and with more or less ambitious programmes of work before them for the day. At Wimbledon the Civil Service Rifles and the 1st Surrey Rifles put in an early appearance—the former on the common for practising outpost duty and the tactics of attack—and the latter for exercises firing at the north ranges, which were fully occupied throughout the afternoon by the Surrey gunners. Among the corps to be met with on the war path in other directions were the Honourable Artillery Company, which is showing satisfactory evidences of renewed vigour under the new regime and under its soldierly commanding officer, Colonel Lord de Vesci; the 2nd Essex Artillery, which had a grand muster at West Ham; and the 2nd Kent Artillery, all three going for long marches out. The Engineers at both ends of the town—the 1st Middlesex, under the command of Colonel Ball, in the west, and the 2nd Tower Hamlets, under that of Colonel Sir A. Kirby, in the east—had also marches out with very good musters, the latter going to Victoria Park, where they got an opportunity of burning a little powder. The scarlet uniform worn by the above corps and by others out marching, including the Tower Hamlets Rifle Brigade and the 1st Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, were indeed rather in the ascendant as compared with the Volunteers in green and grey, and this looks promising for the success of the column of red coats, which, under Colonel Athorpe, the commanding R.E. of the Home District, will shortly revive for the Brightonians the memories of the past glories of Volunteer achievements. In the central districts, the musters of the London Rifle Brigade at the Duke of York's Column, and of the London Scottish at the Scottish Hall, were witnessed by many admiring friends, and that flourishing and well-set-up body of men, the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps (London Division), drew a good concourse of spectators to see their parade for a march out in the far west.

The Cyclist Corps.

A gathering of the curious clustered round the pond at the south end of Clapham Common, where a parade of the 26th Middlesex (Cyclist Corps), in their curious blue uniform, had been called to meet Colonel Savile, for a spin out over the Surrey hills as far as Reigate, where, according to the programme, they would spend the evening, and return on Sunday. The run, one of about twenty-two miles, will be of great use to the men in view of the party they will take in the Easter operations, the programme for which so far as yet ascertained, will include some long rides between Farnham, Dover, and Margate. Major Hawitt, Captain Holmes, and some other officers of the 26th Middlesex, were at the rendezvous to see the start, which was made soon after four o'clock. Colonel Savile had proposed, when the open country about Epsom was reached, to spend half an hour in skirmishing and scouting the objective point, Reigate, being attained about nightfall. In the rear of the column, as it started, a section of the 1st Surrey Rifles, riding tandem by file on three bicycles, fell in, and these hardy young athletes had determined, after seeing their comrades into quarters at Reigate, to return to London. The weather at the start was all that could be desired.

1st Surrey Rifles.

At the headquarters of this battalion, Flodden-road, Camberwell, an immense company assembled later in the evening to witness an athletic display by the regiment at the School of Arms, which has acquired more than a local reputation under the direction of Mr. Fred Boddy. The proceedings commenced with a display of good drill in the bayonet exercise by a squad of 1st Surrey men, commanded by Colour-sergeant T. W. Townsend. Bayonet v. bayonet, between Sergeant Henderson and Sergeant H. J. Horner-shaw, followed; the remainder of the first half of the programme, including musical dumb bells (Colour-sergeant Tearve, the new director of the school of arms being the leader, boxing, sticks, parallel bars, and Indian clubs. In the second part more boxing, and some very clever fencing between Professor J. H. Wallace (late Grenadier Guards), instructor to the corps, and Colour-sergeant Whitehead, who last year won the silver medal of the Metropolitan Volunteer School of Arms Association and a third prize in last year's Royal Military Tournament. The famous cutlass and sword bayonet team of No. 6 Battery, Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers, gave one of their fine displays, and the assault-at-arms was brought to a very satisfactory conclusion with a vaulting horse performance by members of the school, led by Sergeant E. Preston and Mr. C. Brimnell.

4th Surrey Rifles.

The chief event of the day was the opening of an underground rifle range at the headquarters of this corps, New-street, Kennington, and the annual distribution of prizes, both ceremonies being performed by General P. Smith, C.B., in the presence of a large and distinguished company. Colonel Haddan, the commanding officer, opened the proceedings by an eminently satisfactory report of the last year's progress. In the face of a decrease of 2,800 men in the Volunteer force they had to show an increase of fifty men and a decrease in the number of non-efficient men. The shooting of the battalion had not improved, but there was reason to believe that the new range would do much towards curing that fault, and much might also be hoped from the generous offer by Brigadier-general Hamilton of a magnificent silver vase for competition in field firing among the eight battalions forming the Surrey Brigade.

The prize of which they had the most reason to be proud was the certificate given by Dr. Rance for the most efficient infantry battalion in the metropolis. Throughout the kingdom they had only been surpassed by the Queen's Edinburgh Brigade, which had a figure of merit of \$23 against 80, gained by his (Colonel Haddan's) battalion. The London Scottish coming third with 783. They had received £170 from Sir James Whitehead's Equipment Fund, with £700 or £800 more to come, and 50 guineas from the Corporation of London. They had two flourishing cadet corps, one, the Southwark, 150 strong, and amongst the achievements of the year should be reckoned the passing of fifteen sergeants successfully through the Hythe musketry course, one gaining 146 marks out of the maximum of 150. The best shooting company was again D (Captain Foster), the old badge champion of the regiment (Corporal Frost) also belonging to that company. The prizes, which were very numerous and valuable, were subsequently given away by General Smith.

The Underground Miniature Range

was afterwards inspected by General Samson, Brigadier-general Hamilton, Colonel Athorpe, commanding R.E. Home District, and the principal officers present, the commander of the Home District formally declaring it open after a few rounds had been fired. The event marks an important epoch in the history of the metropolitan Volunteers, whose outdoor ranges are rapidly disappearing. Colonel Haddan, the officer commanding the 4th Queen's, who is one of the new officers of musketry holding the Hythe certificate, has for some years been an earnest advocate of miniature ranges, and has made many experiments for the purpose of devising some practical scheme applicable to the circumstances of Volunteer corps. The conditions of the service, particularly in the metropolis, make it of the utmost importance that the early stages of the musketry instruction should be given, if possible, at the corps headquarters, and at a very considerable expense. Colonel Haddan has succeeded in securing on the spot, an underground gallery twenty-five yards long. The range appears to afford all the facilities for the third class firing of the battalion. The

difficulties of the problem having been successfully overcome. This solution has been greatly facilitated by an invention of Dr. Stephenson, of Woolwich, a patent iron target, which secures that bullet after passing through the canvas target shall be directed to a receptacle in which the lead is preserved. Dr. Stephenson's patent target consists of a solid steel plate, laid at an angle, and furnished at the top with a hinged iron "hopper." The bullet, no matter where it strikes the steel plate, follows the path of the plate upwards, until it encounters the "hopper," which promptly absorbs its energy, and, deflecting its path, casts it downwards into pit of sawdust or sand, whence the bullet is recovered with comparatively small loss. In fact, it is a bullet catcher. As there is no "splashing," it can be used in the barrack-room, an open shed, or in a greenhouse, with perfect safety. The difficulties of getting rid of the smoke from the rifles in the confined gallery and of suppressing the noise attendant on practice have been overcome with equal success, but at an expense amounting in all to about £600.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR AND THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales was entertained at a State dinner in the White Hall, Berlin, on the 21st inst. When the glasses had been filled the Emperor rose to propose the toast of the evening. He thanked the prince for his visit, and recorded the warm reception he met with on his visit to England. Then he said: "I thank your royal highness for having come on behalf of your royal mother and my grandmother to return the visit I paid last year to your country. I remember with great pleasure the days I spent there, and I am proud of having become, by the Queen's grace, a member of that admirable Navy which has founded Great Britain's power and glory. I am not less proud of welcoming in your highness the colonel of the Blucher Hussar Regiment, which bears the name of the man under whose command British and German blood was sacrificed against a common foe. I firmly hope that the friendship of both our countries will continue in future, and that also in future the British fleet and the German army will stand together to the benefit of European peace. I drink the health of your highness and the whole of your royal house." All present drank the toast. Then the prince in German thanked the assembly for the hearty reception he had met with. It was thirty-two years since he first came to Berlin, and he hoped to visit it often again, and to be able just as often to greet the emperor and his family as the guests of the royal family of England. He drank the health of the imperial family, and the welfare of Germany.

A Reuter's telegram states that on Saturday the Emperor William held a chapter of the Black Eagle at noon, the ceremony throughout being of a most brilliant character.

MISS BESSIE BELLWOOD COMMITTED TO PRISON.

In the City of London Court on Saturday, before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, the case of Beard v. Bellwood was heard, in which the plaintiffs, Messrs. Beard and Sons, solicitors, of 10 Basinghall-street, E.C., sought to have the defendant, Miss Bessie Bellwood, the music-hall artist, committed to prison for the non-payment of £12, due to them under a judgment of the court.—Mr. Edward Swanborough, the manager of the London Pavilion, said that the defendant was engaged there, and that he paid her £20 per week. She had been ill for a long while, but would be at the Pavilion for the next two months.—Mr. Beard said he had subpoenaed two other witnesses, who were music-hall managers, to speak to the defendant's means. She received in all £20 or £20 per week.—Mr. Commissioner Kerr made an order committing Miss Bellwood to Holloway gaol for twenty days.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

The case of Owens v. Horton was heard at the Birmingham Assizes last week. Plaintiff is the daughter of a merchant carrying on business in Bath-street, Birmingham, and defendant is a painter and decorator in Bristol-street. In August last defendant was a captain in the Birmingham Cadet Corps, of which the commandant was Major Fordyce, and that month the corps went into camp at Bilbey Common, near to which was Mr. Owen's house. Plaintiff went to the encampment with other people for the purpose of seeing what was going on. Major Fordyce happened to be an acquaintance of Miss Owes, and somewhere about August 4th introduced Miss Owes to defendant. After that defendant asked the plaintiff to go with him, and they eventually became engaged. Defendant gave plaintiff a ring, and had an interview with her father, in which he told him his position, that he had certain property, a private banking account, and debts were owing to him to the extent of £2,000, and his liabilities were very small indeed. Several gushing letters passed between the parties, and matters went on smoothly until December last, when the defendant some flimsy pretext wrote to the young lady seeking to break off the engagement. Counsel for the defence did not dispute the contract and the breach, the only question left for the jury being the amount of damages.—Verdict for the plaintiff for £50.

4th Surrey Rifles.

The chief event of the day was the opening of an underground rifle range at the headquarters of this corps, New-street, Kennington, and the annual distribution of prizes, both ceremonies being performed by General P. Smith, C.B., in the presence of a large and distinguished company. Colonel Haddan, the commanding officer, opened the proceedings by an eminently satisfactory report of the last year's progress. In the face of a decrease of 2,800 men in the Volunteer force they had to show an increase of fifty men and a decrease in the number of non-efficient men. The shooting of the battalion had not improved, but there was reason to believe that the new range would do much towards curing that fault, and much might also be hoped from the generous offer by Brigadier-general Hamilton of a magnificent silver vase for competition in field firing among the eight battalions forming the Surrey Brigade.

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ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Henry Berstell, collier, Stanton Hill, near Nottingham, last week attempted to murder his lady and then committed suicide. On Friday night, Berstell and Mrs. Ingram, proprietress of the house, had a trifling dispute. At one o'clock in the morning Berstell broke into her bed-room and savagely attacked her with a hammer, inflicting shocking injuries. Her cries brought the neighbours to her assistance, whereupon Berstell made off, and was subsequently found dead in a pigsty, having taken poison.

BRITISH STEAMER ABANDONED.

Fifteen Lives Lost.

Lloyd's agent at Ferrol telegraphs that at 10.10 a.m. on Saturday the British steamer Virant was abandoned with shaft broken. The Captain and eight of the crew were saved and landed at Ferrol. The mate and fourteen men were lost. Ten bodies have been washed ashore at the mouth of the harbour. The Virant, steamer, is from Sulina. She was a vessel of 1,088 tons, and was built at Sunderland in 1880.

RAID ON A WEST END DISORDERLY HOUSE.

At Marlborough-street Police Court on Saturday before Mr. Newton, George Wood, Priscilla Millett, and Emma Mills were charged with keeping a disorderly house in Little-street, Wardour-street. Mr. Fontaine prosecuted on behalf of the parish of St. Ann's, and Mr. Newton defended.—Inspector Smith said that he proceeded to an oyster shop, 28, Little-street, at 8.30 on Friday evening. The male prisoner was then leaving, and the witness arrested him and took him back. He found the two female prisoners in a bed-room on the ground floor, and told them he had a warrant for their arrest. The male prisoner said his name was Collins, and that he was manager for a man named Wood. The prisoner then said, "He has nothing to do with this house. I am responsible," adding that the other female prisoner was his sister. At the station the male prisoner admitted that his name was Wood.—Corroborative evidence that the shop was the resort of disorderly characters having been adduced, Wood and Millett were each fined £10, or in default two months' imprisonment, and Mills was bound over to be of good behaviour.

A SERVANT CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO POISON HER MASTER.

A domestic servant named Sarah Ann Thomas, in the employ of Mr. David Evans, veterinary surgeon, Haverfordwest, has been arrested on a charge of attempting to administer strichnine to her master. It is alleged that the poison was placed in Mr. Evans' tea, but its presence was detected before any serious results occurred. The contents of the teacup have been forwarded to the public analyst.

REJOICINGS AT GRIMSBY.

There were great rejoicings at Grimsby on Saturday owing to the return of the steam trawler Sando, which left Grimsby for Iceland nearly five months ago, and had been given up for lost. The wives of the crew had been supplied for some time with aid from the Widows' Relief Fund.

IMPORTANT PICTURE SALE.—HIGH PRICES.

On Saturday three collections of modern pictures were sold by Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods, at their rooms, King-street, St. James's, and some big prices were realised, the following being the most notable lots:—A coast scene, "Normandy," with boats and figures, by R. Bonington, R.A., exhibited at Burlington House, 1884, 970s. (Agnew); "Chateau of the Duchesse de Berri, on the Garonne," by R. Bonington, R.A., 400s. (McLean); "Hay Bales, or, the Fens," by Sam Bough, R.S.A., 200s. (Agnew); "Luff, boy," a finished study for the large picture by J. C. Hook, R.A., 340s. (Agnew); "Bude Sands," at sunset, by J. Brett, R.A., 110s. (Fisher); "Morning," by H. W. B. Davis, R.A., 115s. (McLean); "The Isle of Wight," from Lympstone, by J. Linnell, 370s. (Vox); "The Cobbler's Shop," by Van Haanen, 400s. (Philpot); "Betwixt y-ced," by B. W. Leader, A.R.A., 380s. (McLean); "The Silver Stream," by H. Moore, A.R.A., 350s. (Robinson); "Monarchs," by F. Dicksee, A.R.A., exhibited at the Royal Academy 1886, 500s. (Goodwin); "The Red Cross Knight and Una," by G. F. Watts, R.A., 1,500s. (Buxton); "Love and Death," by G. F. Watts, R.A., 1,320s. (Agnew); "The Rider of the White Horse," by G. F. Watts, R.A., 1,450s. (Lord Pembroke); "The Rider of the Black Horse," by G. F. Watts, R.A., 370s. (James Smith); "Hope, the Penitent," by the same, 400s. (Agnew); "The Dove that returneth no more," by the same artist, 470s. (Fisher); "Mount Ararat," by the same, 315 guineas (Agnew); "The Rainbow," also by the same artist, 510 guineas (H. Quiller). Water colour drawings—"Aysgarth Force," by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., 190 guineas (Agnew); "The first Steamboat on the Thames," by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., 415 guineas (Arthur Tooth, Haymarket); "Richard II resigning his Crown to Bolingbroke," by Sir John Gilbert, R.A., 480 guineas (Panniere Gordon). The day's sale realised £16,470.

SARACEN'S FOOTBALL CLUB.

The annual dinner of this club was successfully brought off at the City Arms, St. Mary Axe, on Saturday. Mr. J. Stanton, one of the vice-presidents, occupied the chair, in the unavoidable absence of the president of the club, the Rev. J. F. Jonkin, M.A., "The Queen," "The President and Vice-Presidents," "Absent Friends," "Visitors," and "The Press." Several among the toasts honoured, and the tables having been set, the remainder of the evening was spent in the refreshments. Messrs. D. L. Howard, H. Penstone, H. B. Horbert, A. E. Akerman, J. F. Bowe, M. J. Akerman, E. Lawler, G. P. Channing, E. Wood-Stapley, W. P. Waterson, G. Cowland, T. L. Shear, contributing a number of excellent songs, whilst Messrs. W. G. French, J. A. W. Gaske, and T. W. M. Mair varied the programme with recitations. A very enjoyable evening was spent, and much jubilation was expressed by the members at the announcement of the secretary, Mr. H. E. Reed, that the prospects for the summer's athletic and social gatherings, and for next season's football, was of an exceedingly encouraging kind.

Edward R. Elsey, aged 35, a former member of the Peterborough Town Council, committed suicide at Grantham by cutting his throat. He was in financial difficulties. A jury returned a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind.

At the Hertfordshire Assizes, Henry Greenwood, a supposed burglar, was found guilty of shooting at a police-constable at St. Albans on the night of February 6th, and was sentenced to eight years' penal servitude.

A young man named Alfred Croucher, aged 23 years, was engaged at a steam chaff cutting machine, when by some means his arm got caught by the machinery, and was nearly severed. The unfortunate man was removed to St. Thomas' Hospital.

At the Croydon Petty Sessions John Boxall, 15, and William Harnard, 16, were sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, to be followed by three years' detention in a reformatory, for stealing a box of chocolate creams, value 4s. 6d., from a shop at Mitcham.

At Leeds Assizes, Miss Caroline Amelia Richards, of Settle, brought an action against Horatio James Kand, commercial traveller, of Manningham, Bradford, for breach of promise of marriage, claiming £250. A verdict for plaintiff with £150 was returned.

The two privates of the 1st Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment, named Martin and Abbott, stationed at Fort Regent, Jersey, got upon the ramparts apparently while in drink, and when pursued jumped or fell a distance of thirty-three feet to the ground. Both were seriously injured.

How dots a little "Petrolite"? Improve the washing hour; It gathers praise all the day. From the factory to the home, How skilfully does its work, &c.

MARY'S PARIS SOAP POWDER, a spontaneous cleanser, saves rubbing and scrubbing. Sold everywhere in tins, Pots, or Four Pots, in Case, &c.—Works, Augustus-st., N.W.—Lady

SEVEN PERSONS DROWNED.

Mr. Wynne Baxter held an inquest at the Poplar Town Hall on the body of William Thomas Blanchard, aged 27, a lighterman, lately residing at 104, Queen-street, Hammersmith. The evidence showed that two barges were being towed down the Thames, and when of Fountain Pier, Wapping, deceased, in attempting to step from his barge on to the tug fell overboard. The mate of the tug named Vickery in trying to save Blanchard, also fell overboard, and both were drowned. A verdict of accidental death was returned.—Whilst holding the above inquiry the coroner was informed of the finding of the body of a man in the Regent's Canal Dock, Limehouse. Apparent age about 28, height 5 ft. 6 in., clad in fustian trousers, blue garrison, coloured shirt, and side spring boots. Nothing to lead to identification was found on the body.—Another inquest was held at the Wapping Vestry Hall on the body of Charles Albert Quarrell, aged 25, a waterman, lately residing at 34, London-street, Ratcliffe. Deceased was last seen aboard his barge of the Free Trade Wharf on the 19th February, at 8.45 a.m. At noon he was missed, and nothing more was heard of him till his body was found on the 20th inst.—Dr. Russell Mayne Talbot, 155 Bow-road, said that the abrasion on the forehead was caused after death, and the jury returned an open verdict of found drowned.—Another inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of James Southery, aged 38, a lighterman's watchman, of 518, Southwark Park-road, Rotherhithe, was held at the same place.—The evidence showed that while in the act of pushing a barge on the 19th inst. with a hitcher deceased fell overboard

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.**HOUSE OF LORDS--Monday.**

Lord BROWNSLOW stated that, after the recent vote of the House of Commons, the whole subject of providing Volunteer equipments must be reconsidered.—Lord SALISBURY, in reply to Lord DUNRAVEN, declined to lay on the table the instructions given to the English Plenipotentiaries at the Berlin Labour Conference.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Monday.**The Irish Land Purchase Bill.**

Mr. BALFOUR moved for leave to introduce a bill to provide further facilities for the purchase of land in Ireland. He said there were five public bodies in Ireland concerned in the valuation or sale of land, or the lending of money on land. These the bill proposed to amalgamate into one land department, to which would be entrusted the administration of the Act. The bill was not compulsory, and it did not throw any risk upon the British taxpayer, but British credit would be used to carry out the scheme. Not more than twenty years' purchase of the net rent would be advanced, and this sum might include two years' arrears; and on the department making a vesting order the tenant would at once take possession. His nominal repayment would be 4 per cent. on the purchase-money, of which 2½ per cent. would be for interest, 1 per cent. for a sinking fund, and 1 per cent. for local percentages. The landlord would be paid with a new Two-and-Three-Quarter per Cent. Stock, which, if he was not satisfied with it, he could exchange for Consols. There would be established a guaranteed fund consisting of a cash portion and a contingent portion. The former would be made up of a contribution of £49,000 a year, as an equivalent for the licence duties handed over to England and Scotland, of £200,000 a year as Ireland's share of the Probate Duty Grant, and of the quarter per cent. of the tenants' annuity, which would eventually pass to the local authorities. The contingent guarantee would consist of the rates on Government property, and certain Imperial contributions for poor relief and educational purposes. The total advance was not to exceed the capitalised value of these two portions of the guarantee fund taken together, which would be about £33,000,000. A special board would be created to meet the circumstances of the contested districts. It would be paid £1,500,000 from the church surplus, and would have power to amalgamate holdings, to assist in the emigration or migration of tenants, to sell seed potatoes at cost price, and to investigate into the resources of the fishing stations on the coast of Ireland. When the instalments of the £23,000,000 under the Ashbourne Act were repaid, the instalments would be re-advanced up to the same amount, so that they would constitute a continual circulating fund until the operation was complete.—The motion was agreed to, and the bill was introduced and read a first time.

The Allotments Act.

Mr. ERCHURR moved the second reading of the bill for amending the Allotments Act of 1887. He said he would amend the bill in committee by throwing the duty of providing allotments on the County Council. The measure was discussed at great length, and the second reading was agreed to before the Closure had been moved.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Tuesday.

After a short sitting the House agreed to the Commons' Amendments to their Lordships' amendments to the County Councils Association Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Tuesday.

Mr. BALFOUR informed Mr. J. Ellis that the members of the Congested District Board to be created under the Land Purchase Bill would receive no remuneration for their services.

The Education Department.

Mr. MUNDELL moved what was in effect a vote of censure upon the Education Department, in reference to the supply of public school accommodation in the cities of York and Salisbury. He accused the department of having a discretion in the case of Salisbury, which they did not exercise in accordance with the spirit and intention of the Act, nor with that due regard to the interests of the Non-conformist minority which it was their bounden duty to regard. In reference to York, a duty had been imposed upon the department, and the result was that the entire education of York and Salisbury was in the hands of the Church of England.—Sir W. H. DYKES defended the action of the department, which, in both cases, had simply carried out the provisions of the Education Act. In the case of Salisbury, the department acted under the advice of the law officers of the Crown.—On a division, the motion was defeated by 167 to 115.

A motion by Mr. CLANCY for a return of boggottings and outrage in Ireland was under discussion when the House was counted out at half-past nine.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Wednesday.

The Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill was read a first time, and after the sitting had been suspended till six o'clock the Army (Annual) Bill was also read a first time.

COMMONS--Wednesday.

New writs were ordered to be issued for the Carnarvon Boroughs and Windsor.—Dr. CLARK moved the second reading of a bill, first, to secure for Scotland a schedule of charges for returning officers at Parliamentary elections, similar to the schedule already adopted for England and Ireland; and, secondly, to provide that the official costs should be placed upon the rates.—The LORD ADVOCATE said the Government was favourable to the first of these objects, but not to the second. If the hon. member left the second object out, the Government would support the remainder of the bill.—Sir G. TREVELYAN replied that the second object was of very great importance, and it was desirable to get the judgment of the House upon it.—Mr. M. STEWART moved the rejection of the bill, and on a division the bill was thrown out by 131 to 123.—Mr. T. W. RUSSELL moved the second reading of a bill giving the ratepayers in Ireland power to say there should be no liquor shops in their locality, or to decide the number of licenses to be granted.—Mr. J. O'CONNOR moved that it was inexpedient to proceed with the bill until the Irish Local Government Bill was before the House.—This was adopted by 131 to 124, and the bill was accordingly rejected.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Thursday.**Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.**

This bill was read a second time. The orders being suspended, the bill was read a third time and passed.

The Army Annual Bill.

This bill was also read a second and third time and passed.

Open Spaces Bill.

Lord MEATH moved the second reading of this bill, the object of which, he said, was to improve existing legislation on the subject of open spaces for public recreation, and to afford greater facilities for the acquisition and maintenance of them by local authorities.—Lord DE RAMSEY said there was no objection to the bill as a whole, but in committee it would require careful consideration, as it dealt with subjects within the cognisance of the Charity Commissioners and the Board of Agriculture, and interfered with certain manorial rights. On behalf of the Home Office he did not oppose the second reading.—The bill was read a second time, and referred to the committee on law.

The Parnell Commission Debate.

Lord GRANTVILLE moved that the following lords

be at liberty to sign, before the rising of the House for the Easter recess, the protest entered against the resolution of the House on Friday, 21st March, although their lordships were not present when the question was put. Lords Breadalbane, Chesterfield, Ashburnham, Hampden, Car-moy, Wentworth, Vernon, Thurlow, Leigh, Acton, Greville, Aberdare, Rothfield, Northbourne, Hobhouse, Burton, Hamilton of Dalzell, and Thring.—Lord CRANBROOK pointed out that the motion was not regular, and in order to be regular it should be prefaced by a motion to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 32.—Lord GRANVILLE said to himself in order he would move that Order 32 be suspended. The order is as follows:—“Such lords shall make protestations, or enter their dissent to any votes of this House as they have a right to do without asking leave of the House, either with or without their reasons, shall cause their protestations or dissent to be entered in the clerk's book the next sitting day of this House before the hour of two o'clock, otherwise the same shall not be entered, and shall sign the same before the rising of the House the same day.”—Lord CARPENTER then referred to Standing Order 49, providing that no motion should be granted for dispensing with a standing order unless notice had been given in the minutes to consider such motion.—After a brief discussion, Lord SANDHURST, for Lord Granville, gave notice of motion to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 32.—The House adjourned at five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Thursday.**Private Post-cards.**

Mr. RAJESKI informed Mr. Henninger that the cost of stamping one million post-cards for private persons at the Inland Revenue office was £16 13s. 4d. If they allowed private persons to affix half-penny stamps to their own cards it would mean a loss to the revenue.

The Irish Land Scheme.

In answer to Mr. Sexton, Mr. A. J. BALFOUR stated that he had taken steps for the preparation of a return to be laid on the table of the House that would include the amounts, for the last financial year, of the several items proposed by his Land Purchase (Ireland) Bill to constitute the contingent guarantee fund. He hoped it would be in ample time for the discussion on the second reading.

In reply to Mr. J. MORLEY, Mr. BALFOUR added that he had been disappointed in the bill not being distributed sooner but he hoped it would be in the hands of members on Saturday morning.

The Special Commission Report.

Mr. JACKSON, answering Mr. Bowne's question, said that the report were first ordered, and 9,000 copies of the report were first ordered, and the second edition numbered 20,000. There were many precedents which he quoted for a reduction in the price of the second issue—in one case from £1. 3d. to 3d.—whereas the commission report was from £1. 4d. to 9d.

The Easter Holiday.

Mr. W. H. SMITH, replying to Messrs. Howard Vincent and J. Morley, said that assuming the Tithe Bill was read a second time to-night or to-morrow, and that certain money votes were obtained on Monday, he would be prepared to move the adjournment at a morning sitting next Tuesday. If his anticipations were not fulfilled he would ask the House to sit on Tuesday, and either move the adjournment or on Wednesday. Knowing that in Easter week many members were engaged in the business of the various county councils, he would, for their convenience, extend the holiday to Monday, the 14th of April. It was longer than he would have wished, but it was fair to consider all interests (hear, hear).—Mr. H. FOWLER asked whether it was not the custom to take supply on the first night after the holidays, and whether it would not be more convenient to take the budget on Thursday rather than on Monday.—Mr. W. H. SMITH replied that if he understood that to be the wish of the House, that will find the money to supply the necessary equipment, or whether the terms of the circular shall be amended or withdrawn altogether. Whatever course be decided upon, it is now clear enough that a very large number of persons have had their eyes opened as to the condition of the force, and that the time is rapidly approaching when it will be put on a better footing than at present. It may be the Government will require a pound of flesh, for every extra pound spent, and so increase its requirements to such an extent that numbers may resign; but even if this was the case, it would be better to have a smaller but more efficient Volunteer army than our present over-weighted and cumbersome one.

For some unknown reason the Lancashire commanding-officers appear to take no interest in Easter manoeuvres. Last year there was among the men a very general desire expressed in favour of a marching column being formed, and Colonel TWENTYMAN gave his sanction to the proposal. The scheme, however, broke down through the apathy of the commanding-officers. This year pretty much the same state of things prevails, as colonels of battalions are taking no steps to encourage any such movement. Why such is the case it is difficult to understand, unless it be because they desire to have the men under their own personal control, and cannot brook being sent to the operations acquitted themselves well, and showed that a marked improvement has been made in their training. Sir EVELYN WOOD expressed himself as being well satisfied with the result of the day's operations.

There was a field-day at Aldershot on Tuesday, on which occasion it was gravely announced that the Public School Volunteers "assisted" the regular troops in their operations. The fact is that several of these cadet corps were not present as the weather was unfavourable, and that, although the operations were of an instructive character, there were present fewer representatives of our public schools than on any former occasion. Those who did take part in the operations acquitted themselves well, and showed that a marked improvement has been made in their training, and with one pocket, as it is put, at the South-Western Station. The day's work will be done, and the men will be marched off to HQ, and the colonels will be present to receive them.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

We have 1,016,300 paupers in this country. There were 2,534 births and 1,637 deaths in London last week.

It has been resolved to hold a French exhibition at West Brompton next year.

The Czar is an enthusiastic collector of postage stamps.

Mr. Labouchere is almost as devoted to his cigarette as to Truth.

The peasantry constitute four-fifths of the population of Bulgaria.

Railways in Britain kill 1,000 people and injure 10,000 every year.

Of sparrows killed or caught in this country two-thirds are cocks.

Of 60,000 female clerks in London, 5,000 are believed to be typewriters.

More than 200,000 people are confirmed in the English Church every year.

"The Emperor will see me again," is the latest motto attributed to Bismarck.

Mississippi advances; a white man has been hanged for murdering a negro.

Between £5,000 and £6,000 is spent daily for the hire of cabs in London.

A Birmingham theatrical benefit has yielded the splendid surplus of £4,9d.

Canada sent 17,277 horses, valued at £222,756, to the United States last year.

If called upon, the Australian colonies could organise a defence army of 30,000 men.

Open air spaces under the control of the London County Council extend to 3,000 acres.

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The Sultan of Zanzibar has now a magnificent State carriage. It is a present from the King of Italy.

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One of the latest recruits to the army of workers for the Board School children's happy evenings is Miss Rosamond Stephen, daughter of Mr. Justice and Lady Stephen.

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Why Adela and Hannah Pyvre, sisters, residing at Concordia, a Kansas town, should have ended their lives is a mystery. The poor girls were found together in a lake near their home.

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JACK ALLROUND.

"Can you tell me how to bend a piece of wood four feet long, one inch and a half wide, and half an inch thick; I want to make a 'mail cart,' and require bent wood for the sides; and can you tell me of a good light stain for the same?" If "W. F." works with willow wood he will find no difficulty in bending it; other woods are less yielding, generally speaking, and I have met some very dry woods to not answer at all. The method I advise in all cases is to steep the wood in boiling water (others prefer hot wet sand or straining the water over boiling water), and when you find it to yield sufficiently while the wood is hot bend the two ends towards each other until you get the exact curve you want, then place a piece of wood between to keep the ends at a proper distance apart, and tie them so, passing a stout cord round the ends, placing pads under the cords to prevent indentations showing on your bent wood; let it stand so to dry for a day or two when it will be rigidly set. With regard to the stain to give a yellowish tint, boil a small quantity of fustic chips in rain water, add a little oak stain when cold, and reduce with water to suit the shade you wish for. I often use nothing but a little common oak stain, of which you can buy a pennyworth at the oil shop; dilute it with water to suit your taste. Of course any stain will look dull, and is deceptive up to degree of tint until the varnish is applied; you should try first on waste bits of wood until you arrive at the colour you like.

I am requested by "Minnie" and "Whitebait" to say what ingredients should be used, and how to mix them for a mayonnaise sauce. The ingredients are simple enough, but in making them everything will depend upon your patience in bestowing sufficient time and careful nicely in the mixing. Break the yolk of an egg into a basin, and with a wooden spoon or an egg whisk stir it steadily in one direction for a time, then add a small pinch of salt, ditto of pepper, and a tea-spoonful of vinegar, continue your steady mixing or beating motion in one direction, while adding the above, and still continue it as slowly drop by drop at a time you work in a quarter of a pint of best Lucca oil. When this is amalgamated, add with the same soft steady beating motion one teaspoonful of white vinegar and one teaspoonful of tarragon vinegar, and continue to work the whole with your wooden spoon in the same direction until it becomes quite thick and smooth.

In reply to "C. W."—"Tom W." and "Lover of Cricket," who wish to know how to clean various buckskin garments so as to prevent the "white coming off." I have known it managed very well with the following compound:—A quarter of a pound pipeclay, a quarter of a pound finest plaster of Paris, both powdered, and three ounces best glassing, all boiled together in water and stirred the whole time; boil well. Some recommend the glassing to be put in as it stands, and allowed to dissolve as the boiling process goes on, but I prefer to dissolve it first in a little hot water, assisted by hot water bath, then add it to the powders with enough water to make a thick paste, boil well, and lay it on thickly to the buckskins, bad mud stains having been first treated with a weak solution of oxalic acid, the acid sponged off with clean water as soon as it has done its work. Let the white paste remain on till thoroughly dry, then beat it well out. Upon the proper amount of beating out will greatly depend the absence of the white dust in after wear. I have known a soft brushing applied with advantage after the beating out, but you must not, of course, remove absolutely all the stuff from the skin. A very warm, but not too hot smoothing iron should next be applied carefully over the garment.

I have received a number of queries from correspondents who want to know how to make yeast at home. Among them is one from "Sailor" who says, "suppose I am at sea and require fresh bread, how am I to obtain yeast?" In reply to all, I would remark fresh brewer's and German yeast are superior to any that is home made, and most of these must be started with some of either of the above, which can easily be obtained in London or any large town. However as there are cases where ordinary yeast cannot be had, I give a recipe for a substitute that may be useful to several of my correspondents. Into a pot with four quarts of water put a quarter of a pound of sugar, half an ounce of salt, and half a pound of flour, boil these for fifteen minutes, then cool and bottle, and let it stand for thirty hours in a warm place, then cork it tight for keeping. Shake it up well before using; one pint will work one peck of flour.

To "Mary," who complains of "often having to use bitter brewer's yeast," my advice is get rid of the bitterness in preference to using any home made yeast. If you put the bitter yeast into a pan and pour over it some nearly cold water, stir up gently, and leave it for a few hours to settle the yeast will sink, then pour off the water and most, if not all, the unpleasant flavour will go off with it.

My correspondents as represented by fifteen letters, which I am for lack of space compelled to answer in one short paragraph, are in great trouble about their hair. "E. R." says "my hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes are falling off, can you give me a good recipe." "Blossom" follows with "Kindly tell me what to do, my hair comes out in handfuls directly the comb is put in." "T. T. F." says "surely you can prescribe something that will keep my hair on my head or make it grow again; it is nearly all gone, and my age is only 23." "E. C." writes: "Kindly oblige with a recipe for my hair; of late it has got very thin and does not grow at all, which of course is not right." And so on in the same strain to the end of the fifteen, some pleading for their eyebrows and eyelashes as well as their fast diminishing general crop of hair. I am very sorry for my correspondents, and would gladly, if I could, furnish them all with magnificent heads of hair. There is, however, no specific remedy to suit every one alike, and very often the hair is greatly impaired by applying to it something that has "worked wonders" upon the head of a friend. Sudden abnormal falling of the hair is caused by something wrong in the general health, and that must be set to right before any pomade or wash can do good. The digestive organs being out of order will sometimes cause an irritability of the skin which is highly detrimental to the growth of hair; the general derangement should be treated, and at the same time the hair and scalp will probably be best served by the use of soothing pomades rather than stimulating washes. On the other hand, there are innumerable cases where a deadness of skin proceeding from various causes, leads to a falling off of the hair, which only a stimulating wash can save. Heated atmosphere, anxiety of mind, ill-ventilated hats, caps, or bonnets are all causes that tell against the growth of hair, and also a want of cleanliness works much havoc in instances where it might be least expected. I have from time to time given both washes and pomades of most useful sorts, and can on the present occasion only offer the above general hints for the benefit of my correspondents.

In reply to "Nemo" (John M.) "S. S." and two others, who ask for directions to make up a cheap ice cream, such as they sell in the streets? Dissolve two ounces of gelatine in half a pint of either milk or water; lay that aside. Now slightly beat up eight eggs, and mix them with four ounces of milk, to which add a pound and a half of white lump sugar, and the thin yellow rind of two lemons, with a pinch of salt; pour these into clear bright white-lined saucepan, and place over a moderate fire, and stir it carefully without stirring till you find it begins to thicken, then at once take it off and pour it into a clean basin or bowl, still stirring it, and continue to do so until it is nearly cold; then take the dissolved gelatine and stir that thoroughly into the prepared cream and pour all into your freezer and freeze as for other ices.

I am asked by "J. B." how to make "that excellent and cheap pastry, Richmond maids of honour." There are several modern methods, but the real thing is as follows:—Take half a pound of dry curd, sift it, and mix with it thoroughly six ounces of butter, well beat in a basin the yolks of four eggs with a little brandy and six ounces of castor sugar; have ready one cold boiled potato well pounded and mixed with one ounce sweet and one ounce bitter almonds, the grated rind of six lemons, and the juice of one lemon, and half a grated nutmeg. Line your pretty pans with light puff paste, put some of the mixture in each, and bake in a moderate oven.

THE OUTRAGE AT HAMPSTEAD.

Trial and Sentence.

At the County Sessions on Thursday, John Blackman, of Weyford-road, Barnsbury, and William Kirk, Stanley Buildings, Pancras-road, were indicted for having on the 9th inst. caused grievous bodily harm to a poor woman named Elizabeth Sutton, who appeared in the witness box with her jaws bound up with surgical bandages. According to the opening statement of Mr. W. J. Abram, counsel for the prosecution, borne out by the evidence, it appeared that at about twenty minutes to eleven o'clock on the night in question the prosecutrix was passing along the footpath leading to Parliament Fields, when she was met by four men, who after making use of very bad language, made improper overtures to her. Becoming frightened she screamed out, when one of them struck her a violent blow in the mouth, which knocked her down. Whilst on the ground a hand was put over her mouth, and she was kicked in the face, and otherwise seriously maltreated. She screamed "Murder" several times, when she received more kicks, one of which caused a large lacerated wound two-and-a-half inches in length, below the lip, which penetrated right into the mouth.—The prisoners were convicted.—The learned chairman sentenced the prisoners to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

A NEW EAST END PLAYGROUND.

Londoners in the East have come into possession of a new playground. Without any ceremony the Royal Victoria Gardens, North Woolwich, have during the past week been thrown open to the public. The ground covers eleven and a half acres, and has been purchased for £19,000, which has been raised partly by subscription and in part by a grant from the Charity Commissioners and other contributions from public funds. The gardens have long been popular as a place of entertainment, and latterly as the scene of pyrotechnic displays, but they have suffered from neglect, and some outlay will be necessary to make them presentable. For this purpose the public will have to wait until the County Council have obtained parliamentary powers for acquiring sites outside the metropolis, the greater part of the gardens being in the parish of East Ham. In one respect they resemble Battersea Park, having a fine front to the river.

HONOURS FOR THE FORTH BRIDGE ENGINEERS.

The Turners' Company held a court at the Guildhall on Thursday, at which the honorary freedom and livery of the company was conferred upon Sir John Fowler, Bart., past president of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and Sir Benjamin Baker, member of the council of the Institute of Civil Engineers, in recognition of their many distinguished works, especially the design and construction of the Forth Bridge. Mr. W. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., the master, presided.—Past-master Sir Charles Hutton-Gregory having made a brief speech, Sir J. Fowler, and Sir B. Baker were introduced and made the formal declaration. The master then clothed them with the livery, and amid applause, heartily congratulated them, expressing the pleasure he felt. Sir John Fowler thanked them warmly for the honour, and Sir Benjamin Baker also thanked the company, and the court closed.

LONG FIRM FRAUDS IN LONDON.

On Thursday, at the Central Criminal Court, Edwin Plantly, 35, traveller, and Joseph Scotchford, 35, labourer, were indicted for conspiring together to cheat and defraud divers persons of goods, value £300, by false pretences.—This case had lasted two days, and a large number of witnesses from different parts of the country, who had been defrauded, were examined. The prisoners had premises in the Brecknock-road, where, under the pretence of carrying on a genuine and extensive business in the milk trade, they induced country tradesmen to part with large quantities of butter, and a number of dairy utensils and other articles. In a number of cases where creditors were pressing for payment of their accounts, bills were given, which were afterwards dishonoured, and in consequence of the numerous complaints arising out of these transactions, the prisoners were arrested.—For the defence it was contended that the business was a bona fide one, but owing to pecuniary difficulties, the prisoners had been unable to meet their debts.—The jury found both prisoners guilty.—A previous conviction was proved against Plantly for a similar offence, and he was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.—Scotchkord was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

CHARLEY WEBB

(LATE OF NEWMARKET).

RELATED, but no business connection whatever with **TANGIBLE WEBB**.

Business Manager, Messrs. SMITH and EDWARDS.

The following advertisements appeared in Wednesday's newspaper giving my final selections, one, two, three. Had the second and third been reversed I should have absolutely named the first three as they came in.

LIVERPOOL GRAND NATIONAL.

Send at once for the Win and Place Selections for the above, £2, each. Call and see CHARLEY WEBB and hear what he has to say about something at Nottingham next week.

LINCOLN HANDICAP.

Final selections for to-day, win and places:—

1st, THE REJECTED.

2nd, LORD GEORGE.

3rd, SHIMMER.

Send for the City and Suburban selection, and get on at a good price.

Subscription to WEBB'S INDICATOR £5 for the year.

Results sent. Tape in the office.

CHARLES WEBB, 51, Walbrook, City, London.

To be quite fair I must say that I myself supported "Claribelle" from the moment the weights appeared until Tuesday night, and then found reason for making a change so determined to boldly plump for above three horses, when I printed them in Wednesday's newspaper. With regard to the other two, I have from time to time given both washes and pomades of most useful sorts, and can on the present occasion only offer the above general hints for the benefit of my correspondents.

In reply to "Nemo" (John M.) "S. S." and two others, who ask for directions to make up a cheap ice cream, such as they sell in the streets? Dissolve two ounces of gelatine in half a pint of either milk or water; lay that aside. Now slightly beat up eight eggs, and mix them with four ounces of milk, to which add a pound and a half of white lump sugar, and the thin yellow rind of two lemons, with a pinch of salt; pour these into clear bright white-lined saucepan, and place over a moderate fire, and stir it carefully without stirring till you find it begins to thicken, then at once take it off and pour it into a clean basin or bowl, still stirring it, and continue to do so until it is nearly cold; then take the dissolved gelatine and stir that thoroughly into the prepared cream and pour all into your freezer and freeze as for other ices.

Address—

CHARLEY WEBB,

51, Walbrook, City, London, E.C. (Ground Floor.)

(Late of 112, Regent-street.)

Telegraphic address, "Jokerbie, London."

I am asked by "J. B." how to make "that

TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

By LARRY LYNX.

With the opening of the week the racing world passed from a state of masterly inactivity to one of restless action. It is not often we find the Inter-University Sports and Boat Race crowded into the same week with the Lincolnshire Handicap and the Grand National, but so it happened, and chroniclers of sport who in the "off" season have been making bricks without straw found themselves with an amount of writing material to tackle, that can only be described, in the words of Domini Sampson, as "prodigious." As a matter of fact, it was a similar state of affairs as that described in the "Merchant of Venice," wherein we are told, "They are as sick that surfeit with too much as they that starve with nothing." After the wearisome and uninteresting jumping season we have passed through, it was pleasant once more to tread the streets of the old cathedral city, although we felt that many we saw at Lincoln last March, thanks to the long shelved Sweetbriar was in strong demand, and others well backed were the heavily-weighted Laureate, Royal Star, Shimmer (whose people evidently meant business), Claribelle, and Dauntless. Position is everything in that hotly run mile at Lincoln, and Blake on Lord George was firstaway on the right, with Shimmer, Ormuz, Danbydale, and Nunthorpe next. Then came Evergreen, Tommy Tittlemouse, and The Rejected close up. After going half a mile Lord George came over into the centre, and a furlong further Danbydale and Sweetbriar were in difficulties. Then Shimmer dashed to the front, and close at Lord George's heels came The Rejected, Nunthorpe, Evergreen, and Claribelle. Just below the distance The Rejected collared the grey, and, shaking her off, won by a length and a half; four lengths dividing Shimmer from Lord George. Thus the first big race of the year fell to Alfred Day's stable, greatly to the chagrin of the Shimmer division.

Most of the prophets were out of their reckonings, and in that respect I can claim to be in no better plight than my confidantes. All three placed horses started at good prices. All the Rejected's closing quotations being 18/- to win, 4/- a place; Shimmer's 100 to 8 to win, and 100 to 30 a place; and Lord George's 50/- to win, and 10/- a place; thus backers of the favourites were completely floored. Sweetbriar and Danbydale utterly failed to realise expectations, and why people go on backing the last named unreliable brute is more than I can tell. There was no excuse for him on this occasion; he got off well, was steered by Normandy, who won the Trial Plate after a splendid finish with the un-named colt by Statesman out of Manilla, and so fulfilled the first flat racing prediction ventured by the writer of these notes this year. By his victory a better-backed one in Bobbin, was bowled over. This race was remarkable for introducing to us the colours of Mr. White, the popular Australian sportsman, by means of the veteran racer from down under, Plutarch, who split Kirkham and Narrellan in a trial a fortnight ago. Plutarch cut up badly, but he was far from fit, and we may see him shape in a different form over a longer course later in the year.

The Bathsyany Stakes was invested with considerable interest, for among the lot marshalled in battle array were Pilgrim, a stable companion to Sweetbriar; Morebattle, the examiner of Dauntless; Corbeille, a stable mate to Laureate; and Ulva and Star of Erin, a couple of Brocklesby trial nags. Galloping Queen and Corbeille were both backed, but the Northerners were very sweet on Morebattle. The two former had nothing to do with the finish, which ended in a rattling set-to between Pilgrim—20 to 1 chance—Morebattle, and Renovata, the trio passing the chair in the order written, a length and a head being the judge's verdict. I have no sort or manner of doubt that Morebattle would have won had he not been beaten by the heavy going. The Rejected's poor show in the Cambridgeshire, despite his respectable record last year—he won seven out of fourteen engagements—no doubt stalled many people off Mr. O'Neill's horse, and I must confess I scarcely expected him to stay the course. With one or two exceptions the lot were moderate, as was shown, when a non-stayer like Shimmer got placed second.

It is only necessary for me to mention that in the other races Lyddington beat a better-backed one in Bookold in the Gaultby Plate, that Shamrock II, who was not suspected of being a stayer, upset, what looked a good thing in Theodore, for the Queen's Plate, and the Duke of Portland in the Lincoln Plate, as I anticipated, supplied the winner in St. Bridget, another St. Simon filly, who, more fortunate than her stable companion and relation, Charm, was on Tuesday brought off a 7 to 1 chance, the favourite, Red Wheat, cutting up badly. Red Eagle and Little Wenlock were the only two favourites that caught the judge's eye first.

We may, as the pessimists tell us, be played out old nation and fast declining into an age of degeneracy, as did the old Greeks and Romans, but there seems to be no sign of a decline in our modern amateur athletes. Only a week ago W. H. Morton, of the Salford Harriers, wiped out all time records from fifteen miles to twenty, which distance he accomplished in an amateur running race at Stamford Bridge, in 1 hr. 52 min. 31.1 sec., and supplemented this performance by an extra quarter making an hour's record of 204 miles, the exact clocking figures being 1 hr. 54 min. 4.3 sec. for the 204 miles. On Tuesday the Inter-University Athletic Sports at West Kensington showed us another remarkable set of performances, not the least interesting of which was the victory in the mile of Pollock-Hill, the Oxford president who beat record in these sports by running the distance in 4 min. 21.3 sec., and who, if he had been pressed, would very likely have done 4 min. 18 sec. Roughton the Cambridge first string disappointed expectations, and was quite unable to extend the Dark Blue champion; indeed, he was last all the way and was evidently stale. Pollock-Hill also won the three miles in 15 min. 20.3 sec. The Cambridge president, J. L. Gray, won a couple of events in the hurdles in 16.4 sec., and the long jump, in which he four times cleared over 22 feet, his winning jump being recorded as 22 ft. 7 in. His bandaged knee seemed to give him some trouble, but little trouble. The high jump was also won by Cambridge whose representative—Jennings—cleared 5 ft. 7 in., who, if he had been pressed, would very likely have done 5 ft. 9 in. N. M. Cohen of Jesus, won the hammer throwing with a record of 37 ft. 5 in., which gave Cambridge the odd event. The Hundred afforded the turn up of the day when Frost, the Lashings, won the second string, won in 10 min. 4.3 sec., chased hotly home by the two Dark Blues, with Money-penny, who got off badly. Less than two feet covered the first three, and if the race was not run at a cracker it had the merit of being exciting. Oxford's only other victory was in the Quarter, won by Thomas in 1 min. 56 sec.

Professional rowing may for the time being be under a cloud in the old country, but thank the powers that be, our amateurs are still in the ascendancy. Few who saw the Oxford and Cambridge boat race of Wednesday last, are ever likely to forget that memorable struggle. From beginning to end it was one long ding-dong row. Oxford led at Craven Point, Cambridge in front at Hammersmith, at Thorncroft's the boats were level, and Oxford led again at Barnes. It was not until the ugly railway bridge that spans that part of the river was shot that it could be told which crew would crack first. Then the better and more uniformly pulled stroke of Oxford told, and in spite of Mr. Gardner's expiring efforts they drew away and won by a length. One of the grandest races ever seen on the Thames. The upsetting of the final odds came in the light of a revelation to many, but it must be accounted for by the superior form and body swing of Oxford, who can now boast of a grand stroke in Mr. Fletcher. And Mr. Nickalls was magnificently backed up, whilst in the Cambridge boat it cannot be said that the rest of the crew were equal on every occasion to answering the only hon-like efforts of Messrs. Gardner and Muirhouse. Oxford showed to more advantage in the rough water when the regular swing told its tale. The time of the race was 22 min. 3 sec. by Benson's chronograph, and may seem slow contrasted with previous records, but wind and tide were neither conducive to fast times.

Dismal, dreary, damp weather was associated with the opening of the mixed meeting on Aintree, when the run of ill luck continued. Touchwood, who is an old brother to Fullerton, was a strong fancy for the Union Jack Stakes, but succumbed to Orwell, who seemed to have wintered well, and it must not be forgotten that this colt once stretched Sir Sig's neck. Odds on White Feather were landed, and then Toscano stoned the Marquess of Kempton defeat by winning the Liverpool Hurdle Handicap, beating the favourite Bonhur. Waterproff, in mid-field, did not start. Macnunes won the Molyneux Stakes, and the little fancied Hothead won the Tenth Liverpool Steeplechase, in which Mazzard and Bloodstone fell, and Shillelagh and Fatherland won the last race.

This brings this strange eventful history up to the third and last day of the Lincoln gathering, which was distinguished by charming weather, and under such favourable circumstances it is not surprising that the gathering on the Carholme on the chief day of the meeting showed a marked improvement on its predecessors. The going was still soft and holding despite the drying winds. As though the cup of backers' misfortunes had not been filled to overflowing on the two preceding days, the fickle goddess, whose smiles most often reward the backs of racing court, treated those of the punting fraternity who sought her favours on Wednesday with a cruel disdain. Not only were the three chief favourites beaten out of place in the Lincolnshire Handicap, but those in other races also lamentably failed to realise anticipations.

In the event of the day the Lincolnshire—not the Lincoln—Handicap, as some people, disregarding the fact that the latter event is run in the wane of the season, will persist in calling it, there were nineteen starters, being the smallest number that has contested this race since old Knight of Burghley, with 7st. 8lb. in the saddle, sailed home in 1883, when seventeen ran. As the hour drew nearer and nearer for the

THE CREW MURDERERS.

The High Sheriff of Cheshire (Mr. Jardine) has definitely fixed Tuesday, April 8th, for the execution at Knutsford Gaol, Cheshire, of Richard and George Davies, for the murder of their father at Crewe.

A REMARKABLE ESCAPE.

At the Worship street Police Court, Richard Sims, 48, cooper, whose head was heavily bandaged of Globe-road, Bethnal Green, was charged with attempting to commit suicide by throwing himself under a train on the Great Eastern Railway.—The evidence of a witness showed that on the 16th inst., the prisoner was on the platform of the Great Eastern Railway station at Mile End, and just as the train approached ran down the incline at the lower end and flung himself on the track. Fortunately he did not fall across the rails, but between, and though the engine and several of the carriages passed over him, the only injury he received was to one side of the face, which cut his ear and lacerated the jaw. When dragged out he was unconscious. On his recovery he asked where he had been, and being told "under a train," said, "How did I get there?"—The wife of the prisoner came forward and said he had attempted his life two or three times previously. His work and the loss of a sister seemed to have unhinged his mind.—Mr. Montagu Williams ordered a remand for a week, directing that the state of the prisoner's mind should be inquired into.—The prisoner, who seemed very ill and who had been in the hospital since the occurrence, was removed to prison in a sab.

COUNTERFEIT FLORINS.

At the Central Criminal Court, Robert Jones and Louis Evans were indicted for feloniously having in their custody and possession five counterfeit florins, with intent to utter.—The prisoners resided at 12, New-street, Tottishill-street, and, in consequence of certain information, the police, on the 14th inst., arrested the female prisoner on suspicion. Upon searching the premises they found in a jug the five coins, wrapped separately in paper. The male prisoner was then arrested, and, in reply to the charge, he said, "I know nothing about it."—The jury found both prisoners guilty.—Five previous convictions, including two terms of seven years' penal servitude, were proved against Jones for coining, and four convictions against Evans for similar offences.—She was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. Sentence on Jones was deferred.

A WONDERFUL MEMORY.

The German papers announced the death in an asylum at Budapest of Karl Szabo, the oldest of Hungarian actors. Szabo made his first appearance on the stage in 1835 as a member of the company of Stephen Balogh. During his early career he occupied something like the position of Delaunay on the French stage, being accounted the best delineator among Hungarian actors of lovers' part and light comedy characters. In Pressburg many stories have been told of his extraordinary powers of memory. This Hungarian comedian, having one day visited the gallery of the Landtag during a debate, repeated that evening a long speech of one of the deputies in the green room of his theatre. So great was Szabo's reputation for such feats that trials of his skill were constantly being planned. He once undertook to commit to memory in a single night an entire play from Scribe's extensive repertory. The choice fell upon "Un Verre d'Eau," the well-known comedy in five acts, in which Queen Anne, Abigail Hill, and the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough are prominent personages. On the following day Szabo recited the dialogue from beginning to end without the aid of the prompter.

SENTENCES ON RUSSIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.

According to letters received from Siberia there has been an inquiry as to the massacres reported the other day. All proofs which the exiles brought that only the governor, the police-master, and some officials were responsible for the occurrences which took place in Notkin's lodgings, and that the exiles were perfectly innocent, were fruitless. The object of the whole trial was to get to know which of the exiles had pistols and who had shot with them. The exiles refused to give any information. The witnesses consisted of soldiers and police officials. Upon being questioned whether this or that exile had fire, most of the witnesses answered that the room was so full of smoke that they could scarcely see their own rifles, therefore it was still less possible for them to observe which of the exiles had fired. But amongst these so-called witnesses there were officious persons who gave any sort of evidence in favour of the administration. So Gausman was sentenced to death on the evidence of the police officer Win-skurov, who stated that from the entrance hall, where he stood, he had seen Gausman fire. And yet it had been proved by nearly all the witnesses that the smoke prevented one seeing anything even in the room. One of the witnesses stared some minutes at the exiles standing next to him, and then, turning quickly to the chairman, Lieutenant-colonel Sawitski, he asked, "Whom do you wish me to recognise?" The preliminary judicial examination only lasted three days, and the court did not allow the exiles to utter a word in their defence. Bernstein, Sotov, and Gausman were sentenced to the gallows; Gotz, Minor, Alexander Gurewitsch, and Michael Orlow to compulsory labour for an indefinite period; Braginski, Ratin, Ufland, Bramson, and O. Estrowsitch to compulsory labour for thirty years; Sar Bernstein and Pauline Perl to compulsory labour for twelve years; of O. F. Berman, Mich. Estrowsitch, Tereschkowitsch, and Eugenia Gurewitsch—all minors, the latter being a girl of 18; the two former were sentenced to ten years' and the two latter to six years' compulsory labour. Of the rest, some were sentenced to be transported to the most remote parts of Siberia, the others to three or more years' imprisonment. This decision of the court needed the Czar's confirmation, and he ordered that Sotov, Bernstein, and Gausman were to be hanged, and that those who had been sentenced to an indefinite period, or to thirty years' compulsory labour, should only have twenty years in the cases of Tereschkowitsch and Eugenia Gurewitsch—the term of six years was to be diminished to four, and the sentence on the others was to remain as given by the court.

NOTICE.

To avoid loss of time and inconvenience, all communications on business matters should be addressed to the MANAGER, and not to the EDITOR.

PERSONAL.

DEAR Sirs.—Will your Sister come and see me. You have my promise, do not fear. My wife sits all for you.

N.—Very kind gift thanks for your attention. Lord not tell, he says, C too painful; D, impossible.

YOUNG WIDOW wants a steady HUSBAND; widower not objectionable. 2, 22, Peacock-street, Cubitt Town.

D.—With wife, son, 2, 22, Peacock-street, Cubitt Town.

MATRIMONY.—Widow, no encumbrance, some means, lady-like and educated, seeks honourable Partner, good position Christian principles.—Address, B. B., 2 New-road, Brighton.

WILL ROBERT HAYES and Family, late of 3, Gainesford, Barnsbury-road, Islington, communicate with EDWARD GLOVER, of 2, Wm. Street, St. John-street-road, E.C., who will offer them £1,000 a year to manage a business for him.

WIDOWER, 32, 4,000 yearly. Wants domesticated healthy, educated young WIFE; medium height; with sufficient money to furnish house well.—Unity, 4, Ludgate, Circus Buildings.

EDDIE, February 24th, at Canterbury, MICHAEL HENRY DUNN, late Royal Dublin Fusiliers and 26th Cameronians, eldest son of the late Colour-sergeant Michael Dunn, who served at Dunkirk and died in 1870. His widow, nee grand-daughter of the Colour-sergeant Jonn has a Young, Coldstream Guards. Was born at Lucknow, 1860.

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Prepayment is indispensable.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

YOUNG GIRL, 16, to assist mistress generally, good reference, £2, 6s. weekly.—L. B., Hetherington's, 169, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, 16, fond of children, 7 months' character, £2, 6s. weekly.—Emily F., Hetherington's, 169, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 15, 6 weeks' character, very willing, wages £2, 6s. weekly.—J. E., Hetherington's, 169, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 18, good character, plain washing, little washing, good needlewoman, wages £10.—H. M., Hetherington's, 169, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 17, can plain cook, respectable, neat, good references, wages £10.—Eliza, Hetherington's, 169, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 15, 6 weeks' character, plain washing, little washing, good needlewoman, wages £10.—H. M., Hetherington's, 169, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 17, can plain cook, respectable, neat, good references, wages £10.—Eliza, Hetherington's, 169, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 15, fond of children, 12 months' character, £2, 6s. weekly.—Eliza, Hetherington's, 169, Queen's-road, Peckham.

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ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.**Unionist Victory at Ayr.**

The counting of the votes recorded on Tuesday for the election of a Member of Parliament for the Ayr Burghs, to succeed Mr. John Sinclair (Gladstonian), resigned, took place on Wednesday at Ayr, with the following result:-

Mr. James Somervell (C) 2,610

Mr. Edmund Routledge (G. L.) 2,460

Majority 130

The figures at the two previous general Elections were as follows:- 1885.-R. F. F. Campbell (L.), 2,460; M. Low (G.), 2,118; majority, 342. 1886.-R. F. F. Campbell (U.), 2,673; J. Sinclair (G.), 1,983; majority, 1,175. In May, 1888, Mr. Campbell died, and at the bye-election the figures were:- Sinclair (G.), 2,321; Evelyn Ashley (U.), 2,263; majority, 53.

WINDSOR.-Great excitement prevails in the borough, and the candidates and their friends are persecuting an active canvas. The Conservative, Mr. Barry, holds meetings nightly, as does also the Gladstonian, Mr. Grenfell. Monday is fixed for the nomination and Wednesday for the polling.

CARLTON.-The announcement that Mr. Ellis Nancey has consented to become the Conservative candidate has aroused much enthusiasm among the Unionist party. The nomination has been fixed for April 2nd and the polling for the 10th.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.-Mr. Hubert Rhodes, cotton spinner, of Glossop, has declined the invitation of the Gladstonian Association to oppose Mr. Addison, M.P.

LANCASHIRE (North Lonsdale Division).-The Gladstonians have decided to invite Mr. Joseph Smith, Oakwood Hall, Wednesday, to be the candidate at the next general election.

LEICESTER.-Mr. H. Mallaby Dolee has accepted the invitation of the Conservatives to become one of their candidates.

THE NEW CODE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**Payment by Results Abolished.**

The long expected and anxiously awaited Code of Regulations of the Education Department for 1890 is published. If approved by Parliament it will come into force on August 1st next. The most important article is Article 101, which deals with the grants on examination. Instead of the former fixed grant of 4s. 6d. and merit grant of 1s., 2s., or 3s. there is now provided a principal fixed grant of 12s. 6d. or 14s. (according to merit of the school) on the average attendance. A fixed grant of 1s. or 1s. 6d. for discipline is also provided; so that out of the maximum grant of 17s. 6d. per scholar (fixed by the Act of 1876, and which the code, of course, cannot alter), managers are at once sure of 1s. 6d., and may be hopeful of 1s. 6d. The grant of 1s. each for singing and needlework remains. Now the examination to determine the grants will be governed by entirely revised rules. All scholars will be liable to individual examination; but, as a rule, the examination in standards will be by sample, not less than one-third being individually examined. The scholars will be examined in standards suitable to their capacity, which need not be the same for each subject. Needwork and singing, if properly taught, will each bring 1s. The grants for class subjects and specified subjects remain the same. As to examination, the most important concession is made to the teachers in accordance with the recommendations of the royal commission. While every scholar will be liable to individual examination in the elementary subjects they will be examined in standards suitable to their capacity, which need not be the same for each subject. Then, too, they will be examined, as a rule, by sample, not less than one-third being individually examined. This is a great concession, and one that will prove generally acceptable.

Besides the old schedules of subjects to be taught there are entirely new supplementary schedules, with courses for English geography and elements of any science, very skilfully drawn up by expert inspectors. There is also a new schedule (vii.) of rules for planning and fitting up schools, which will govern all new schools. As regards requirements for space in all schools at present receiving grants, the eight square feet and eighty cubic feet requirement per child will continue. While the grants for evening schools continue the same in amount, technical instruction may be a main feature, and excellent results may be anticipated from the new provisions. The drafting of the code reflects high credit on the new secretary, Mr. Kekewich, who, succeeding at a critical time, thoroughly justified his appointment.

FIRE AT TOTTENHAM.**Narrow Escape of Inmates.**

A fire broke out on Friday morning on the premises of Messrs. Routledge and Son, drapers, Lower Tottenham. It originated in a kitchen, and gained a firm hold before its existence became known. The buildings and their contents were completely destroyed. The occupants of the house, Mr. and Mrs. Routledge and their family, and about a dozen young lady assistants, escaped without injury, but several were obliged to leave hurriedly in their night clothes. Several brigades attended, and the fire was prevented from spreading to the shops adjoining. The amount of the damage is estimated to be over £2,000.

THE AFFAIRS OF LORD DEERHURST.

The creditors of Viscount Deerhurst met at the London Bankruptcy Court on Friday. Lord Coventry, father of the debtor, offered a composition of 5s. in the pound, but the meeting did not appear to be willing to accept less than full payment. The matter was adjourned in order to see whether the debtor's friends would increase the offer to avoid bankruptcy. Lord Deerhurst explained that if he were made a bankrupt he would not be able hereafter to take his seat in the House of Lords. One of the creditors said that if his lordship did not pay 2s. in the pound he ought not to sit in Parliament.

THE "CONTINENTAL MAGIC LIFT STICK."

At the Central Criminal Court on Friday, John Murray, 50, commission agent, and Thomas Edwards, 46, coffee-house keeper, were indicted for stealing a gold watch, value £20, the property of Mr. Edward Nunan. Mr. Avery prosecuted; Mr. Geoghegan and Mr. Keith Frith defended. On the 30th October last year, prosecutor's watch was stolen from him while crossing from Newhaven to Dieppe, in the steamer Northumberland. Some time in February this year, the prisoners, who were known to the police, were arrested on suspicion at Kennington, and upon Murray the watch, with its initials cleverly obliterated, was found, together with other property alleged to be stolen. On being taken to the station Edwards threw away a stick of peculiar construction. By unscrewing the handle and pressing a spring a pair of forceps were visible, capable of lifting a six-pence or a 2s. weight. The stick was known to the police by the name of the "Continental Magic Lift Stick," and was specially used by professional thieves on boats and railway stations. For the defence, it was contended that the case was merely one of suspicion, and with regard to the stick, it might have been constructed for perfectly innocent purposes. The jury acquitted both prisoners and Mr. Geoghegan asked that the stick be returned to Edwards, there being no reason why it should go to the museum at Scotland Yard. The recorder said the police authorities would use their own discretion in the matter.

THE NEW WIMBLETON.

The Press Association learns that, in response to the appeal made by the N.R.A. in connection with the New Wimbledon, the following additional sums have been promised:- Duke of Bedford, £250; Lord Weymouth, £250; Duke of Northumberland, £100; Sir H. Fletcher, M.P., £50; Colonel Humphry, 25s.; Captain Pixley, £50; Colonel Alexander Wilson, £50; Colonel Egerton, £50; Colonel Marston, £50.

REMARKABLE LIBEL SUIT BY A CLERGYMAN.

A remarkable libel suit at New York has ended in a verdict for the plaintiff, the Rev. Joseph H. Ryland, rector of St. Mark's Church. The defendant, Mr. Quackenbos, had accused the rector of acts of the grossest immorality. The defendant completely failed to substantiate his accusations, and he was mulcted in damages to the amount of 10,000dols.

A POSTMAN ATTACKED BY A BOARHOUND.

A postman complained to Mr. Cooke, at the Marylebone Police Court, on Friday, that while delivering letters that day he was attacked by a huge boarhound, which knocked him down and kept him on the ground until it was whipped by a servant of the owner. The dog was muzzled. Mr. Cooke said he should be glad to give the amiable thing for persons to keep dogs which attacked people going about their ordinary business.

THE UNITY SWIMMING CLUB.

The twelfth dinner of the Unity Swimming Club took place at the Holborn Restaurant, on Thursday evening. Mr. R. A. Germaine, L.C.C., in the chair. The company numbered about eighty, and among those present were Mr. Lucas Shawell, Mr. Val Hunter, Mr. Walter Emden, Mr. W. T. Madge, Mr. J. Dabbs (president of the club), J. S. Stevens, and Mr. F. M. Case. The club was stated to be in a most prosperous state both as to members—over a hundred—and financially. The speakers dwelt upon the advantages of swimming, having regard to its sanitary benefit as well as a sport, and the probable saving of life in times of peril from accidents on the water, &c. Swimming, it was contended, should be compulsorily taught in all schools, and the chairman, as a county councillor, was urged to establish swimming baths throughout the metropolis. A very pleasant evening was spent, enlivened by good music and songs, well rendered, contributed by Messrs. C. E. Johnson (pianist), H. Sharplin, C. Norman, H. Wyles, J. Lloyd, W. Gibbs, and others.

THE CREWE MURDER.

Mr. Pedley, the solicitor to the Davies family, continues to receive numerous applications for petitions in favour of the commutation of the death sentence passed upon the two youths for the murder of their father. Three thousand signatures have been obtained in the neighbourhood of Crewe. The younger prisoner, writing to his sister Emily, says:—"I now write these few lines hoping to find you all as well in health as can be expected at a time like this. No doubt poor mother and all of you are nearly broken-hearted. Mother and all of you kept up very well at the trial, better than I expected you would. No doubt you did all as ever you could for us, but I still look to Him above, and put my whole trust in Him, and I pray to God to forgive me. You must tell Lily and Jim that they must not come to see me till mother has received a letter from the governor, or else they will not be allowed to see me if they come before. I hope soon to see some of you, for no doubt all of you want to see me very much. Dear Emily, it is very hard for you all to think of us coming to this end. I would very much like every one of you to have something of mine to keep; no doubt you would all like to have something, and let [a friend] have something as well if he would like to have anything. Give my best love to mother and all my relations and all my old friends." Richard, the elder brother, in a letter to a friend, full of scripture texts, says he is prepared to meet his fate.

ASSAULTING A CLERGYMAN AT DEPTFORD.

Walter Nicholson, 28, postman at the Admiral Napier public-house, Amersham-vale, Deptford, was charged at the Greenwich Police Court on Thursday, with assaulting the Rev. Samuel Topham, clerk in holy orders, of 38, Amersham-vale, Deptford. The prosecutor said that on the previous afternoon he went into the public-house, when the prisoner asked him to go with him next door, a confectioner's shop. He went, and when they got into the shop the prisoner struck him in the face. The prisoner said the prosecutor was in the habit of annoying young women as they passed through the street. He admitted that he slapped his face, because he had insulted his (prisoner's) sweetheart—Miss Cox, of 1, Douglas-street, Deptford, she had lived with her aunt at a confectioner's shop. She had to go to the post late at night, and the prosecutor had molested her. On Monday night at half-past ten, the prosecutor annoyed her, and asked her to go for a walk with him. She told the prisoner, to whom she was engaged, and on Wednesday afternoon he brought Mr. Topham into the shop and asked her if she knew him. She said, "Yes, he molested me," and the prisoner then smacked his face and said, "Now, you will be more careful in molesting respectable females." A minute afterwards the prosecutor receded over, fell through the window, and broke the glass. Prosecutor said that no window was broken. He denied the truth of the girl's statement. Police-constable 433 Rsd Dr. Macmillan stated that the prosecutor had a nasty cut.—Prosecutor said it was entirely false that the window was broken, and the constable had perjured himself.—The constable said the prisoner was sober, but the prosecutor was under the influence of drink.—Mr. Marsham said that nothing would justify the prisoner in striking the prosecutor, but he did not think he hurt him much, and would bind him over to keep the peace.

AN INFATUATED LOVER.

Considerable interest has been caused in Paris by the suicide of M. Constantine Ventura, nephew of a former prefect of Bucharest, and cousin of Prince Milan, ex-king of Servia. He was only 24 years of age, and his fate was the logical consequence of having loved not wisely, but too well. The young fellow possessed some private fortune, and was well known in the theatrical world, where he made the acquaintance of a certain actress, to whom immediately he lost his heart. He fell desperately in love; but it was a hopeless passion, for he could not continue to discharge the claims upon his purse which the unfortunate liaison created. In his distress the lovesick youth made more than one attempt to terminate his misery. Once he swallowed morphine, but the dose was insufficient to kill. He was very ill for a while, but he still persisted. The second time he fired a carbine at his head, but merely succeeded in shooting off a finger, which it is said he afterwards preserved in spirits. In a third futile attempt to take his life he made use of a toy revolver, which he placed against his breast. The ball, which was arrested by his clothing, scarcely grazed the skin. This effort was towards the close of last year. A temporary reconciliation with his lady love followed, but it did not last long. To shake off his fit of melancholia he went to Nice, but he could not keep away from Paris. Early in February he again approached his flame, and gave her a costly ring, but next morning he received his definite congé, which threw him into a fever of fury and despair. Nevertheless, he made a last appeal, and obtained a further interview with her at an hotel. He supplicated her to return to their old relations, but the actress refused to entertain the proposal, and Ventura thereupon lost control of himself. The ring which he had given her he demanded back, saying that she should have returned it of her own accord. The lady resented his tone, and threatened to defend herself, at which the young fellow attacked her with the ferocity of brute-beast, knocked out a tooth and inflicting such injuries as obliged his victim to keep her bed for a fortnight. The police interfered, but she refused to prosecute, and the young Roumanian was left alone. Daily he became more moody and depressed. At length he realised his project. He went to bed at his hotel, and rested the barrel of a revolver upon his lips. As he pulled the trigger he seized the barrel with his right hand. The wretched man had just breathed his last when the waiter entered the room.

ALLEGED GREAT FORGERY OF SPANISH BONDS.

At the Mansion House Police Court, Edward Varrone, alias Walker, 43, an Austrian, described as a merchant, and lately having offices in Old Broad-street, was brought before Mr. Alderman Renals on remand, charged with having, during the last three months, in the City of London, unlawfully conspired with one Justo Martos, of 10 and 11, Clement's-lane, by false pretences to obtain from the Deutsche Bank and other foreign bankers large sum of money, amounting to £23,000, with intent to defraud. Mr. Horace Avery was counsel for the prosecution; and Mr. Goldberg appeared for the defence.—Mr. Avery said he proposed to charge the prisoner with being a principal in the uttering of the forged Spanish bonds, as well as with conspiracy with Martos to utter them.—Detective sergeant Outram said on the 6th inst. he saw the prisoner at his office at 42, Old Broad-street, in consequence of tracing a bank note for £200 to him. The name on the office door was "B. J. Walker." There was no description of the business. Witness said he wished to speak to him respecting a £200 Bank of England note which he (the prisoner) changed at Messrs. Burt's money-changers, Cornhill, and he asked him from whom he received it. He replied from a Mr. Justo Martos, of 11, Clement's-lane. Witness asked him what he received it for. He said to change into foreign money. He asked, who was Mr. Martos? Martos asked him if he did much in changing money, and he replied that he did. Witness asked what other transactions he had had. The prisoner answered that he had done a lot for him—£4,000 or £5,000 in the last few weeks; and Martos used to pay him a commission of one-eighth. Witness asked if he had any books or papers to show what transactions he had had with him. He then produced memoranda of transactions with money-changers. Witness asked him to go with him to the office of Mr. Michael Abrahams (solicitor) and explain to that gentleman the transactions he had had with Martos. He did so, and he repeated to Mr. Abrahams what he had originally informed witness. Mr. Abrahams asked him his name. He said he traded as "B. J. Walker," but his name was Edward Varrone, and he resided at 9, Canterbury-road, Brixton. He stated that he last saw Martos on the 5th, the day before, and he expected he might call at his office at any time. Prisoner was very excited during this conversation, and was afraid of being in the office alone as Martos might.

Shoot or Stab Him.

At the prisoner's request and for purposes of his own, he left an officer in his office with him up to the time of his arrest. Witness used to meet him at a morning and go to the office with him. On the 10th inst. prisoner, who had gone there first, called his attention to a large envelope which had come by post, bearing the post-mark "Parma," and which had been opened. Witness examined the contents, and found them to be twenty-one Spanish Exterior Four per Cent. Bonds.—Mr. Avery said these were forgeries.—The prisoner said they must go to the solicitor at once. Witness asked if there was any letter with the bonds, and he replied, "No." Witness said, "Who could have sent them?" He replied that he could not understand it, but they must have come from "him." The witness then accompanied him to Mr. Abrahams' office, where he handed the bonds to Mr. Abrahams. Witness met him next morning by arrangement, and went into the office with him. On the office table he found the letter produced, addressed to "B. J. Walker," with an Italian postmark. The prisoner opened it in his presence, and on examining the contents witness found twenty other forged Spanish bonds and a letter in pencil in Italian. The letter was read by Mr. Douglas, the chief clerk, stating that he had received 50,000 lira in all, and beggins him not to send English money again. Witness asked him from whom the letters came. He said he did not know, but he supposed from Martos. The bonds were delivered to Mr. Abrahams. On the 20th inst. witness and Sergeant Taylor arrested him. He became very excited, and said he was ready. Witness searched him, and found on him a receipt for a registered letter sent to Bejot, of Paris, and a receipt from the Marine Insurance Company for £23 18s. 1d. In the office he found a copy letter from J. Martos, 11, Clement's-lane. Witness afterwards went to the prisoner's residence at Brixton, and found an Italian bond and two Credit Foncier bonds.—Mr. Avery said they were genuine.—After some further evidence, the prisoner was again remanded.

FORGERY BY A SOLICITOR.

At the Central Criminal Court on Friday, before the Recorder, Henry Milton Pullen, 63, described as a solicitor, was charged with forging and uttering an endorsement on a bill of exchange for £120, with intent to defraud.—Mr. Tickell prosecuted.—The prosecution was instituted by the Capital and Counties Bank. On the 30th of January the prisoner went to the bank with the bill, which he represented had been accepted by a firm of solicitors. Some suspicion was aroused and the prisoner went away, but was apprehended shortly afterwards on another charge. The bill was detained, and it turned out that it was a forgery.—The prisoner's defence was that he had merely been a dupe to other parties.—He was convicted and sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

A THREATENING LETTER.

At the Central Criminal Court, Philip Solomon, 30, tailor, was charged with feloniously sending a letter threatening to accuse the prosecutor of a crime for which he was liable to seven years' penal servitude if he did not give him money.—Mr. Purcell prosecuted; and the prisoner was defended by Mr. Paul Taylor.—The prosecutor is a tailor, having one shop in Poplar and another in the High-street, Whitechapel. On the 9th of January a very serious fire occurred at the Whitechapel shop. The prisoner at the time was a lodger in this house, and very shortly after the fire he appeared to have made statements to some of the neighbours to the effect that he knew something about the fire which he would divulge unless money was given to him. He afterwards wrote a letter to the prosecutor, in which he charged him with having wilfully caused the fire, and threatened to let the insurance company know all about the matter if £100 were not given to him. The prosecutor refused to listen to the proposition, and he obtained a warrant, upon which the prisoner was taken into custody and the present charge preferred against him. The prosecutor, in his cross-examination, denied that he had offered to give the prisoner money, but he admitted that something was said by the prisoner to the effect that if he had been going to set fire to his house he might have let the lodgers know, and he had had to drag his wife down several flights of stairs, and they were nearly burnt to death. He declared that there was not the slightest foundation for the suggestion that the fire was not accidental.

—For the defence a Jewish girl was called, who stated that it was she who had written the alleged threatening letter.—Mr. Justice Hawkins before the witness made this statement cautioned her that she was not bound to answer any question that might tend to incriminate her, but she persisted in her statement that the letter was written by her.—In reply to Mr. Purcell, she stated that she had been on very intimate terms with the prisoner. —Mr. Paul Taylor, on behalf of the prisoner, endeavoured to show that the story told by the prosecutor was most improbable and extraordinary, and he had not received any corroboration. He also argued that the true solution of the offence was that the prisoner had endeavoured to gain some compensation for having the life of himself and his wife endangered by the fire, and that the specific charge against the prisoner had not been sustained.—The jury found the prisoner guilty and sentenced him to twelve months.

POISONED ON HIS WEDDING DAY.

An inquest was held on Thursday night by Mr. G. P. Wyatt at Camberwell on the body of George Rodney McDonald, aged 24, a cashier. McDonald, it is said, was about to be married, and on the day before the wedding bought a bottle of Kay's compound essence, of which he took two doses. Next morning he was found in a dying condition in bed, and only lingered a few hours.—Dr. Swindell, of Rye-lane, said that judging from the amount of essence remaining in the bottle, the deceased had taken an overdose, and this would account for death.—The jury returned a verdict of death from an overdose of Kay's compound essence.

CAPTURE OF NOTORIOUS THIEVES.

At the Marylebone Police Court on Friday, George Compton, 30, and William Turner, 21, two well-dressed men, were charged with being concerned, with a third man, not in custody, in stealing a purse, containing £4 odd, belonging to Mrs. Christina Smart, a lady, residing at Heathfield, Chapter-road, Willesden Park.—The evidence was that the pro-ecuatri and two lady friends travelled by the Metropolitan Railway from Willesden to Baker-street, en route to Notting Hill. While on the Baker-street platform, the prisoners and another man went near to the ladies, and, just as a train was entering the station, one of the men drew the ladies' attention to some imaginary wonder in the tunnel. Mrs. Smart had entered a second-class carriage of the train, when she discovered that her hand-bag was open and her purse gone. She instantly jumped out of the carriage, and told the guard that her purse had been stolen. By that time the train had been started by Edwards, the guard, who ran after the men as they hurried along the platform, and shouted "Stop them!" The missing man got out of the station, but the prisoners jumped into the train, which had by that time got half into the tunnel, and Edwards had to take refuge in a first-class carriage. It happened that the prisoners got into a carriage where was seated Denyer, one of the company's ticket examiners, and, on reaching the Edgware-road Station, he helped Edwards to secure the prisoners. Detective-sergeant Wright, F Division, was on the platform at the time, and, seeing a commotion, he went up and secured the prisoners. In reply to his questions they produced tickets from King's Cross to Kensington, and when asked how they came to be on the Baker-street platform, they gave unsatisfactory replies, and of course, denied the charge.—Session Ward